EASTERN HEALTH BOARD MEETING

Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting
held in
the Boardroom, Dr. Steevens' Hospital
on Thursday 6th April, 1995 at 6.00 p.m.

Present

Mr. P. Aspell
Mrs. B. Bonar
Cllr. B. Briscoe, T.D.
Cllr. I. Callely, T.D.
Cllr. J. Connolly
Cllr. T. Cullen
Sen. J. Doyle
Dr. J. Fennell
Dr. R. Hawkins
Cllr. T. Keenan
Cllr. M. McWey
Ms. M. Nealon
Cllr. C. O'Connor
Dr. J. Reilly
Sen. D. Roche
Cllr. R. Shortall, T.D.
Cllr. M. Whitty

Cllr. M. Barren
Cllr. G. Brady
Cllr. E. Byrne, T.D.
Cllr. B. Coffey
Cllr. L. Creaven
Cllr. A. Devitt
Cllr. K. Farrell
Cllr. C. Gallagher
Dr. D.I. Keane
Mr. G. McGuire
Cllr. O. Mitchell
Cllr. Dr. W. O'Connell
Cllr. J. Reilly
Cllr. T. Ridge
Cllr. K. Ryan
Cllr. D. Tipping
Dr. M. Wrigley

In the Chair

Cllr. Michael Barrett

Officers in Attendance

Mr. K. J. Hickey, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. M. Walsh, Programme Manager, Special Hospital Care
Mr. P.J. Fitzpatrick, Programme Manager, Community Care
Mr. S. O'Brien, A/Programme Manager, General Hospital Care
Dr. Brian O’Herlihy, Director of Public Health
Mr. G. Brennan, Technical Services Officer
Ms. M. McGahern, A/Finance Officer
Ms. M. Kelly, Personnel Officer
Mr. M. O'Connor, Secretary
38/1995
CONDOLENCE

On the proposal of the Chairman, a vote of sympathy was passed with Mr. Brian Burke, Finance Department on the death of his mother.

39/1995
CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS

The Chairman read the following report which was noted by the Board:-

1. May and June Board Meetings

With the agreement of the members it is proposed to hold the May meeting of our Board in St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, on 4th May, 1995 and the June meeting of our Board in St. Colman's Hospital, Rathdrum, on 1st June, 1995.

2. Association of Health Boards in Ireland - Annual Conference

Members have received notice regarding the Annual Conference of the Association of Health Boards in Ireland which will be held in Monaghan on Friday and Saturday 28th and 29th April, 1995.

Members who wish to attend the Conference should give their names to the Secretary.

3. Special meetings of Board

I wish to advise members that special meetings of our Board will be held on the following dates:-

(a) Week commencing 8th May, probably 11th May 1995
    - to consider services for the elderly

(b) A date to be announced (probably week commencing 15th May)
    - to consider services for drug misusers

(c) Thursday. 25th May, 1995
    - to consider a report on the adequacy of family planning services in our Board's area.

40/1995
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On a proposal by Deputy Callely, it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow him to move the following motion:-

"That the members of the Eastern Health Board express their solidarity with the actions of members of the Irish Nurses Organisation at the Mater and Beaumont Hospitals to highlight the crises that exist in the Accident and Emergency Departments of Dublin Hospitals and request that an urgent/special meeting be convened with the appropriate authorities (Steering Committee, Minister for Health, Accident and Emergency Departments etc.)."
The motion was seconded by Cllr. Coffey and following a discussion to which Deputy Callery, Cllr. Reilly, Cllr. Cullen, Deputy Byrne, Cllr. Mitchell, Senator Roche, Cllr. Coffey, Ms. Nealon, Cllr. Dr. O'Connell, Cllr. Connolly, Dr. Hawkins, Dr. Reilly, Mr. McGuire, Senator Doyle. Deputy Briscoe, Mrs. Bonar and the Chairman contributed and to which Mr. O'Brien, Programme Manager, General Hospital Care and the Chief Executive Officer replied it was agreed to note the motion and to await developments which would be reported to the General Hospital Care Programme Committee.

41/1995
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 23RD FEBRUARY 1995, MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 2ND MARCH 1995 AND OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 13TH MARCH 1995.

The minutes of the special meeting held on 23rd February 1995, the monthly meeting held on 2nd March 1995 and of the special meeting held on 13th March 1995, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. Reilly, seconded by Dr. Hawkins.

(a) Matters arising from the minutes

Mrs. Bonar asked that it be recorded that she had enquired if a special meeting of our Board would be arranged to discuss the implications of the Regulation of Information Bill, 1995.

Cllr. Tipping asked that it be recorded that the following recommendation made by the Community Care Programme Committee at its special meeting to consider the Supplementary Welfare Allowances Scheme was not accepted by the Health Board:

“That Health Boards be given the authority to inform the Revenue Commissioners of payments made to landlords under the Supplementary Welfare Allowances rent supplements scheme.”

42/1995
QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On a proposal by Deputy Byrne, seconded by Cllr. Tipping, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged:


"To ask the Chief Executive Officer if he will advise of the special allocations that the Board has received over the last five years due to the shortage of appropriate long stay beds and to facilitate the discharge of elderly patients who were blocking acute medical beds."

Reply:

The following special allocations have been made available to our Board over the last five years by the Department of Health to provide additional long-stay places for elderly patients, who were occupying acute hospital beds, had completed the acute phase of their treatment and who had been medically assessed as in need of long-stay care:"
The six acute general hospitals in Dublin have all benefitted, and continue to benefit from these allocations.

2. Cllr. I. Callely, T.D.

"To ask the Chief Executive Officer if he will outline the day care services for elderly patients with dementia or behavioural problems that are available on the north side of the city, how are patients referred, and what are the criteria for a patient to be accommodated"

Reply

Elderly patients with dementia or behavioural problems avail of day services/support from both the Community Care and Special Hospital Care Programmes.

The Community Care Programme provides the full range of primary care services and community ward scheme to frail people in the community, including elderly people with dementia. The Public Health Nursing Service, in particular, has a major in-put with this group. A range of day services and community supports are also provided either directly or through voluntary agencies as follows:-

- 44 organisations providing services including day centre activities, clubs and other supports.
- 16 organisations providing home help services to 2,250 persons, 75% of whom are elderly.
- 55 organisations provide over 400,000 meals annually. These include meals in Day Centres, community rooms of sheltered housing projects and home deliveries.

The Special Hospital Care Programme has established specialist psychiatric services for the Psychiatry of Old Age on the Northside in Areas 6 & 7. The service operates on a multi-disciplinary model, led by a Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry, and is based on the principle of domiciliary assessment and support services in the persons own home. Management of the patient is community-based wherever possible. Community Psychiatric Nurses play a key role in supporting patients in their own home and carers; and in monitoring patients so that needs can be met as they arise, and crises avoided.

Day Hospital services are provided at James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown and at St. Vincent’s Hospital, Fairview. Separate programmes operate on alternate days for

(i) Persons with dementia
(ii) Frail elderly with psychiatric disabilities.
Services in Area 8 are provided by a General Psychiatrist with specific responsibility for the elderly. Again, the service is domiciliary based with respite care as appropriate and day services including:

- day care (provided by the Alzheimer Society in Raheny)
- prescribing of medication
- home support/home help service
- meals on wheels

Referrals to community services in general are made by the patient's general practitioner, by the acute hospitals (on discharge) and also by public health nurses and other community care professionals. Referrals to the specialist psychiatric service are made by the patient's general practitioner or other medical practitioners involved with the patient.

Admission to day hospital is determined by clinical need, while admission to day care is determined by social need.


"To ask the Chief Executive Officer what support services are available to Alzheimer's sufferers, what has been identified as their needs and requirements over the next five years and will the Chief Executive Officer make a statement on the matter."

Reply

Persons with Alzheimer's disease avail of a wide range of services in the community:
- primary care services; the Community Ward Scheme for frail people, particularly those discharged from hospital; nursing home care and hospital care as appropriate.

The following range of day services, home support (home helps), Meals and Wheels etc are provided either directly by our Board or through voluntary agencies:

- 130 organisations providing services including day centre activities, clubs and other supports.
- 35 organisations providing home help to 5,500 persons, 75% of whom are elderly.
- 150 organisations provide 1,100,000 meals annually. These include meals in day centres, community rooms in sheltered housing projects and home deliveries.

Psychiatric Services for Alzheimer's patients with associated behavioural problems are available within specialist services for the Psychiatry of Old Age which have been established in North Dublin and Area 3, involving our Board, St. James's Hospital and St. Patrick's Hospital. These specialist services provide a range of responses appropriate to individual needs, including residential care.

Assessment beds are available in St. Vincent's Hospital, Fairview, and in St. James's Hospital. Respite beds are available in James Connolly Memorial Hospital and in St. Patrick's Hospital. Continuing care beds for persons with disturbed behaviour secondary to dementia are available in James Connolly Memorial and St. Patrick's Hospitals.

Day hospital places are provided at James Connolly Memorial Hospital, St. Vincent's Hospital, Fairview and St. Patrick's Hospital.
A similar range of services will be provided in Areas 1 and 2 involving our Board, St. Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park and Hospitaller Order of St. John of God, later in the year. The specialist units for the elderly developed at Vergemount and Tivoli Road will be an integral part of this service.

The brief for the new Tullaght Hospital includes six beds for the Psychiatry of Old Age Service.

In the remaining catchment areas, services appropriate for persons with dementia/Alzheimers are provided by general psychiatrists who use beds for assessment and continuing care as appropriate.

Services for persons aged under 65 and suffering from Alzheimers Disease are, in the main, community based involving primary care services, public health nursing, home helps, meals on wheels and day care. Psychiatric services are provided as appropriate.

Our Board works closely with the Alzeimher Society of Ireland and is involved with them in the ongoing planning of their services. We have helped them with the capital development of their facilities at Blackrock and Raheny and we are also providing a contribution towards the continuing costs of>

Day care, Raheny
Respite and Day Care Services, Blackrock

Arrangements are also being made to make a site available to the Society at Curlew Road, Drimnagh. for the provision of day services on the westside.

The ongoing needs of persons suffering from Alzheimers Disease/Dementia are being reviewed as part of the overall review of services for the elderly.

4. Cllr. E. Byrne, T.D.

"To ask the Chief Executive Officer to outline his plans for the further development of the Community Mothers Programmes particularly as it affects the Area 3/Postal District No. 8 of Dublin.

Can he further say if he intends to extend the programme to the Rathfamham district and if he is concerned that Dublin South Inner City, with its multi-disadvantaged status, is adequately resourced at present."

Reply

There are at present 10.5 whole time equivalent Public Health Nurses assigned full time to the development of the Community Mothers Programme. These nurses work as Family Development Nurses and so far have developed the programme to the extent that there are now 900 community mothers in the programme. At present there is one Family Development Nurse assigned to the Rialto/Inner City part of Community Care Area 3.

The entire community mothers programme is being reviewed at present to identify areas where the Programme ought to be expanded. Preliminary results from the review indicate that the programme should be developed further in the Rialto/Inner City region and in other
socially disadvantaged areas throughout our Board's region, including the Whitechurch area of Rathfamham. There are many parts of our Board's area, including the South Inner City, which would, without doubt, benefit from the provision of additional funding for this particular Programme.

The review will be completed very shortly and the programme will be extended as quickly as it is possible to provide resources to do so.

7. Cllr. E. Byrne, T.D.

"To ask the Chief Executive Officer to explain the reason why the Eastern Health Board has "frozen" the waiting list for medical card holders seeking dentures. Will he say what plans he has to reopen the list, and what plans he has to clear the present log-jam."

Reply

The new Dental Treatment Services Scheme (D.T.S.S.) for adults was introduced by the Minister for Health on 1st November 1994. This scheme is part of a four year development plan for the dental service and involves the provision of services, including dentures, for adults by private or health board dentists. The scheme is being introduced on a phased basis by way of age cohorts. The first age cohort to which the scheme has applied is persons over 65 years. Our Board is currently treating those persons over 65 years of age who were on our waiting list when the scheme was introduced.

When launching the new scheme the Minister indicated that the scheme would be extended by way of additional age cohorts as soon as the waiting lists for those over 65 had been cleared. In the meantime, our Board's Dental Surgeons provide dentures to persons under 65 where the general practitioner confirms to the Principal Dental Surgeon that these are urgently required for medical reasons.

6. Cllr. D. Tipping

"To ask the Chief Executive Officer to detail the services to be provided in Tallaght as outlined in "Community Care Programme Financial and Service Plans 1995" (Page 4,3rd Paragraph) and will he also detail the location for these services and when he expects these services to commence."

Reply

Our Board, in co-operation with the Department of Social Welfare, plans to provide a new joint customer services facility in the new Social Welfare offices which are adjacent to The Square in Tallaght. It is planned to have the service operational from mid summer this year.

The facility will provide customer services similar to those provided in the unit in Dr. Steeveson's Hospital, which include information, advice and assistance in establishing entitlement to all of our Board's services.

7. Cllr. D. Tipping
"To ask the Chief Executive Officer to detail how he expects to alleviate the problem in Community Care Area 4 for Speech Therapy services where the average waiting list for assessment is 18 months whilst in other Community Care Area this waiting time is much less."

Reply

In 1989 our Board had a total of 28 Speech and Language Therapists. By the end of 1994 that number had been increased to 61. Each Community Care area now has a Principal Speech and Language Therapist, with, in the main, four basic therapists. Area 4 because of the number of children and the elderly population, in addition to a Principal, has five basic grade Speech and Language Therapists working in the general service with three other therapists assigned to special classes in two national schools in the area dealing with specific language disorders.

During 1994, a working group in our Board reviewed the Speech and Language Therapy service. Their recommendations included the need for standardisation in the way waiting lists are formulated and maintained. This is being done at present and the lack of such standardised procedures makes comparisons between areas difficult. This exercise will be completed shortly and if there are inequities in the numbers on waiting lists between areas resources will be re-allocated accordingly.

8. Cllr. D. Tipping

"To ask the Chief Executive Officer to detail the plans for the Health Centre for Tallaght including the cost of the building and the services to be provided."

Reply

Given the nature of the area to be served and its population it is planned to provide two Centres in association with new general practitioner pilot practices at Rossfield and Killinarden, and a further Centre at Fortunestown.

A brief, incorporating operating principles and schedules of accommodation has been completed for the overall development. Based on the accommodation requirements contained in the brief it is anticipated that the cost will be in excess of £1.0m.

A full range of medical, dental, nursing, social work, home help, speech therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, adult psychiatry (including a clinic for the adult sexual abuse services) child and adolescent psychiatry, administration and customer services will be included in the overall development.

A briefing meeting will be arranged with local members of our Board at which details of the plans can be discussed in detail.

9. Cllr. R. Shortall, T.D.

"To ask the Chief Executive Officer, in relation to Day-Nursery places in Ballymun, to report on the following:-"
(i) The current number of places being provided

(ii) The estimated number of places required

(iii) Plans to increase the provision of additional places

(iv) Timescale for those plans"

Reply

(i) There are at present 114 places being provided in the two day nurseries in Ballymun.

(ii) It is estimated that there is a need for approximately 90 additional places.

(iii) The additional funding for the development of child care and family services provided in 1994 will enable our Board to increase the provision of places in Ballymun by up to 50. Discussions in relation to the 1995 development funds are at present taking place with the Department of Health and the need for additional day nursery places throughout our Board’s area is being considered in conjunction with the many other competing demands in child care and family support area.

(iv) The Management Committee of Ballymun Day Nursery is at present negotiating with the Board of Management of the Holy Spirit School for the use of vacant space which would increase the size of the existing accommodation for the nursery. The additional places will be provided as soon as this or other accommodation is secured.

10. Cllr. J. Reilly

"To ask the Chief Executive Officer if he will outline the annual cost to this Board of rented office accommodation within the Board’s area, and if he will state the cost for each of the Community Care Areas, ie. 1-10."

Reply

The annual cost to our Board of rented office accommodation is £225,800.

Details in relation to areas 1 - 10 are as follows:-

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£225,800

The rentals refer to both long term and short term leasing arrangements
11. Cllr. C. O'Connor

"To ask the Chief Executive Officer to furnish a full report on the recent Meningitis outbreak in our region detailing the Eastern Health Board response and updating the Board on the current situation."

Reply

Group B strains of meningitis are the commonest cause of infection, followed by group C. Group A strains are rare in this country.

While meningococcal infections can occur at any age, they are commonest amongst infants, followed by children in the age range 1 - 5 years and then among adolescents.

In our Board's area, 24 cases of suspected meningococcal infection were reported during the month of January, 1995. There were 4 deaths. In February 15 cases of meningococcal infection were notified and there were no deaths. For the month of March, 11 cases of infection have been notified, resulting in 2 deaths.

Of the suspected cases notified since the beginning of the year, 12 cases have been confirmed as being due to a Group B organism and 10 cases have been confirmed as being due to a Group C organism. In the remaining 26 cases, the diagnosis has been clinical.

Cases of meningococcal bacterial infection occur throughout the year but are usually commonest in the Winter and early Spring. Irregular upsurges of infection occur from time to time and it has been suggested that this coincides with an increase in flu-like illness.

Appropriate antibiotics were offered to all close contacts. In addition, in cases of group C organism, vaccination was subsequently offered to immediate contacts. There is no approved vaccine yet available for Group B meningitis. In view of the importance of early recognition of symptoms of meningitis infection and the importance of immediate commencement of antibiotic treatment wide publicity was given in relation to the symptoms of bacterial meningitis through the media, distribution of information leaflets at health centres and through our Board's Medical Officers talking to parents and teachers, where appropriate. Information was given to medical practitioners and supplies of appropriate antibiotics were located strategically throughout our Board's area so as to be readily available to doctors. In addition, a telephone helpline was established where concerned members of the public were able to obtain information.

12. Cllr. C. O'Connor

"To ask the Chief Executive Officer if he is concerned at the possible public health implications arising from the failure of South Dublin County Council to provide a continuous supply of water to private households in its administrative area, and in reporting will the Chief Executive Officer please note that frequently there is no water supply available to domestic users at weekends and throughout the night and will he please make a general statement on the matter."

Reply

The increasing demand on the system over the years has led to a shortage of treated water for the greater Dublin area. As a consequence, local authorities take various measures to conserve water. In the area concerned, the local authority reduces water pressure and restricts flow on
weekdays between midnight and 6 a.m. and at weekends. This can result in some dwellings being dependent, for the duration, upon stored water.

What is essential, from a public health point of view, is that people have access to an adequate and safe supply of water. The local authorities have responsibilities for ensuring that supplies are adequate and of suitable bacteriological and chemical quality. Routine checks as regards quality are carried out on all public water supplies and, in this regard, there has been no recent identification of anything which would give rise to concern from a public health point of view.

13. Cllr. C. O’Connor

"To ask the Chief Executive Officer to now confirm that he intends to retain the Millbrook Lawns Taliaght Health Centre in its present location as is essential for the provision of local health services in this general catchment area."

Reply

It is intended to retain the Health Centre at Millbrook Lawns from which to provide health services to the population of the surrounding area.

43/1995

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer read the following report which was noted subject to the comments recorded below:-

1. Developments at James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of letter dated 10th March, 1995 from the Department of Health confirming the undertakings given by the Minister for Health when he met a deputation from our Board on 16th February 1995 to discuss the upgrading, on a phased basis, of accommodation at James Connolly Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown. It is confirmed in the letter that the Minister has agreed in principle to the funding of the development on a "£ for £" basis, subject to a maximum cost of £8m.

Arrangements are being made for the first meeting of the Project Planning Group and progress in this matter will be advised to the General Hospital Care Programme Committee on a regular basis.

2. Sotos Syndrome - Long Term Illness Scheme

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of letter dated 13th March, 1995 from the Department of Health in response to our Board’s motion requesting the Minister for Health to consider including Sotos Syndrome in the Long Term Illness scheme.

Members will note from the letter that there are no plans at present to extend the Long Term Illness Scheme to include any further conditions having regard to the extent to which the needs of people with exceptional medical expenses are met by other schemes.
3. Resignation of Dr. Brian O'Herlihy and Dr. Rosaleen Corcoran as members of our Board

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of letters dated 8th and 16th March 1995 from Dr. Brian O'Herlihy and Dr. Rosaleen Corcoran tendering their resignations as members of our Board.

in accordance with the provisions of Rule 14 (2) of the Second Schedule to the Health Act, 1970, the Minister for Health will now be requested to fill the two vacancies caused by their resignations.

As a consequence of their resignations, the filling of two vacancies on the Central Council of the Federated Dublin Voluntary Hospitals, two vacancies on the Meath Hospital Board and one vacancy on the Tallaght Hospital Board will, in accordance with the usual practice, be on the agenda for the May meeting of our Board.

In relation to Dr. O'Herlihy's reference to his membership on the Meath Hospital Board and the Central Council of the Federated Dublin Voluntary Hospitals the question of his continued representation of our Board on these bodies is a matter for the members of our Board. He is eligible to continue in membership as an officer of our Board if nominated.

Nominations for the filling of the two resultant vacancies on the Budget Working Group will be taken at the May meeting of our Board. If more than two nominations are made, the two members for appointment to the Budget Working Group will be elected at the June meeting of our Board.


I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of letter dated 27th March, 1995 from Cllr. Betty Coffey tendering her resignation from the Meath Hospital Board and from the Central Council of the Federated Dublin Voluntary Hospitals.

As agreed at the March meeting of our Board the filling of these two vacancies is on the agenda for this evening's meeting.

5. Measles Immunisation Campaign

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of a press release issued by the Minister for Health on 7th March, 1995 in relation to the Measles Immunisation Campaign aimed at primary school children who are susceptible to the disease.

The campaign, which commenced in our Board's area on 20th March, is being implemented through the schools. Questionnaires have been issued to the children for completion by their parents, and those children who have not previously been vaccinated against measles will be offered immunisation.

6. Special facilities to cater for exceptionally disturbed or unruly children in need of special treatment

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of a press release issued by the Minister of State with a special responsibility for Children following the Geoghegan judgement in which he refers to the arrangements being made for our Board to establish special facilities with a high staff/child ratio to cater for a small number of children in need of special treatment, attention and education.
The Minister also announced the following improvements in relation to children with special needs who have been in conflict with the law.

1. The certification of a small number of places at Oberstown Girls Centre as industrial school places for girls.

2. The expansion of the Oberstown Girls Centre through the provision of an additional four reform school places along with three very secure places for seriously disruptive girls and the provision of a separate Industrial School Unit within the Oberstown Girls Centre.

3. The development of a Reformatory School unit in the grounds of the Finglas Children's Centre. This unit will have the capacity to take eight to ten boys.

4. The development of two units to provide 20 additional reform school places for boys at Lusk, Co. Dublin.

Arising out of this judgement, a number of developments will be taking place in our Board's area and these will be the subject of a full discussion at the next meeting of the Community Care Programme Committee.

7. Health Fact Sheet 1/1995 - Health Expenditure

I have circulated with the agenda papers for these meeting copies of Health Fact Sheet 1/1995 showing recent international trends in health expenditure.

This fact sheet is published by the Health Services Development Unit of the Institute of Public Administration.

8. Deputation to Minister for Health regarding the further development of Naas General Hospital

The Minister for Health, Mr. Michael Noonan, T.D., received a deputation from our Board on 23rd March, 1995 to discuss the further development of Naas General Hospital.

The deputation, which was led by the acting Chairman, Deputy R. Shortall, comprised Cllr. G. Brady, Mr. P. Aspell, Cllr. T. Cullen and Cllr. M. McWey and was accompanied by Mr. KJ. Hickey, Chief Executive Officer, Mr. S. O'Brien, Programme Manager, General Hospital Care, Mr. J. Leech, Hospital Manager, Naas General Hospital and Mr. M. O'Connor, Board Secretary.

The Minister for Health was accompanied by Mr. Bernard Durkan, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Social Welfare, Mr. B. Ingoldsby and Mr. V. Barton.

The purpose of the deputation was to seek the Minister's approval to the revised functional content as agreed by the joint Eastern Health Board/Department of Health Review Group for inclusion in the Development Brief for Naas General Hospital and the re-appointment of the Design Team to proceed to the detailed planning of the further three phases of the Hospital development.
Deputy Shortall, Councillor Brady, Cllr. McWey, Mr. Aspell and the Chief Executive Officer stressed the importance of proceeding with the development of the Hospital so that it may function to the maximum extent in a complementary role to the new Tallaght Hospital.

The Minister for Health stated that he agreed that Naas General Hospital has a role to play in the delivery of acute hospital services in our Board's area and that there was no question of phasing it down. He asked that officials from our Board and his Department should meet again to consider and agree what will be necessary on a phased basis to secure the future of the Hospital and to improve the facilities here in the short-term. He said he would ask the Secretary of the Department to write to our Board in this regard and he hoped that the discussions which he had suggested could take place as a matter of urgency.

The Minister also stated that he would meet again with the deputation in six weeks to review the matter.

9. Nursing Home - District Court Judgement

I wish to advise members regarding a District Court judgement given on 3rd April 1995 in the case of the Martinville Nursing Home in Dun Laoghaire.

Our Board refused to register the Nursing Home because it had failed to meet the requirements for registration. The Nursing Home proprietors appealed our Board's decision to the District Court, which is provided for in the Health (Nursing Homes) Act, 1990.

The District Justice gave his judgement on 3rd April and held that our Board was justified in refusing registration. He disallowed the appeal.

Arrangements are being made to provide alternative accommodation for all the residents of the Nursing Home.

10. Filming on location at St Brendan’s Hospital

I wish to advise members that arrangements have been made to facilitate Warner Bros. Productions Ltd from Pinewood Studios in the making of their film ‘Michael Collins’ on the site of the former Lower House at St. Brendan’s Hospital where it is intended to recreate O’Connell St. “1916/1920”.

There are no property implications for our Board other than insurance indemnities and security, both of which will be the responsibility of the film company.

11. Department of Social Welfare Carers’ Allowance

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting, copies of Department of Social Welfare leaflet no. SW41 on the Carers’ Allowance, a payment for Carers on low incomes who live with and look after certain people who need full-time care and attention.

I have also circulated this evening, copies of an information sheet issued by the Department of Social Welfare outlining the improvements in the Scheme announced in the 1995 Budget and which will come into effect in June 1995.
The operation of the Carer’s Allowance Scheme will be the subject of a full report and discussion at the next meeting of the Community Care Programme Committee.

12. **Additional funding for the development of services to persons with a mental handicap.**

I have circulated this evening for the information of members, copies of a Press Release and letter from the Department of Health regarding the allocation of an additional £8m revenue and £2m capital funding for the development of new services in 1995 for persons with a mental handicap.

Our Board's share of the additional funding amounts to £2.665m for the provision of the following services:

- Residential places 66
- Respite places 7
- Day Care places 155
- Home support for 270 persons
- Hepatitis B vaccinations for staff working in the mental handicap service and for client groups considered to be most at risk.
- Services for persons with disturbed behaviour

We have been requested to notify the Department of Health in relation to the capital requirements of the services proposed in our Board's area. The letter advises, however, that a separate capital allocation of £100,000 will be made to our Board for the improvement of services at St. Ita's Hospital, Portrane.

Progress regarding the development of the new services will be advised to the Special Hospital Care Programme Committee.

13. **Dublin Chamber of Commerce - Corporate Membership**

Following the initiative of Dublin City's business and civic leaders in seeing the need for an integrated strategy to guide Dublin's future direction, the "2010 Committee" was formed through the Dublin Chamber of Commerce. The "2010 Committee" comprises a group of leaders from the capital's private and public sectors all committed to shaping Dublin's future who have jointly adopted a common vision and a strategic plan.

Having regard to the need for inter-sectoral co-operation which will be necessary for the "2010 Committee" to achieve its objectives in guiding the development of the City into the next century and to our Board's interest in, and support for, the Dublin Healthy Cities Project it is proposed that our Board should apply for corporate membership of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce to enable us to participate in the work of the Committee.

The subscription payable for corporate membership will be £970 per annum.

It is proposed that the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer should be nominated as members of the Chamber.

14. **Conference on European Health Promoting Hospitals an Irish Network**
I have circulated this evening for the information of members, copies of a Press Release issued by Mr. Brian O'Shea, T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Health when he officially opened the Conference on European Health Promoting Hospitals - an Irish Network in Dublin Castle today. The Conference was jointly hosted by our Board and the Department of Health.

The European Health Promoting Hospitals Project operates under the auspices of the World Health Organisation and, so far, three Irish hospitals are participating in it - James Connolly-Memorial Hospital, Blanchardstown, St. Vincents Hospital, Elm Park and Letterkenny General Hospital.

Members will note from the Press Release that the Minister of State and the Minister for Health are currently examining a draft Health Promotion Strategy document which builds on the goals and targets set out in the Health Strategy.

15. Introduction of Ms. Maureen Browne, Communications Director

I wish to take this opportunity to introduce to the members, Ms. Maureen Browne, who has recently been engaged as Communications Director for the Eastern Health Board on a full-time basis. I am sure members will join with me in wishing her every success in her new role. She previously held the post of Editor of the Irish Medical Times and has 25 years experience in professional journalism. Her appointment is part of a strategy to fully develop both external and internal communications in a large public service organisation such as the Eastern Health Board.

16. Retirement of Mr. Gerry Brennan, Technical Services Officer and of Professor Brendan O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health

I wish to advise members that our Board will be losing the services of Mr. Gerry Brennan, Technical Services Officer and of Professor Brendan O'Donnell, Dublin Medical Officer of Health, on their retirement. Their retirement and those of Mr. Fred Donohue and Mr. John Doyle Programme Managers Community Care will be marked at a special function to be arranged with which members can be associated, if they so wish, and to mark their significant contribution to the health services over many years."

The Chairman, on behalf of the members, welcomed Ms. Maureen Browne and wished her well in her new assignment. He also wished many years of happy retirement to Mr. Brennan and Professor O'Donnell.

Dr. Hawkins and Deputy Callely asked that our Board's request to the Department of Health for the filling of the two casual vacancies caused by the resignations of Dr. O'Herlihy and Dr. Corcoran should include a recommendation that the vacancies be filled by registered medical practitioners, one of whom should have special knowledge or experience in preventive medicine.

44/1995
MEATH HOSPITAL BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The following report no. 12/1995 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:-

"In accordance with the terms of the Meath Hospital Act, 1951 and the Health Act, 1970 [Adaptation] Regulations 1972 our Board elects 11 members of the Meath Hospital Board."
Our Board's representatives on the Board of the Meath Hospital, who were elected for a three year term from 6th April, 1993 to 5th April, 1996 are as follows:

1. Cllr. G. Brady
2. Cllr. B. Coffey
3. Dr. R. Corcoran
4. Dr. R. Hawkins
5. Cllr. C. Gallagher
6. Ms. M. Nealon
7. Mr. G. McGuire
8. Mr. S. O'Brien
9. Dr. B. O'Herlihy
10. Cllr. K. Ryan
11. Sen. D. Roche

A vacancy now exists following the resignation of Cllr. B. Coffey.

The appointment of a member to fill this vacancy is a matter for our Board.”

On a proposal by Cllr. Coffey, seconded by Senator Roche, Cllr. Tom Keenan was appointed to fill the vacancy.

45/1995
CENTRAL COUNCIL OF FEDERATED DUBLIN VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS - MEMBERSHIP

The following report no. 13/1995 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

"The Hospitals Federation and Amalgamation Act, 1961, provides for the appointment by our board of five persons to be members of the Central Council of the Federated Dublin Voluntary Hospitals.

Our Board is represented on the Central Council by:

Dr. Rosaleen Corcoran
Cllr. I. Callely, T.D.
Dr. B. O'Herlihy
Cllr. B. Coffey
Cllr. C. Gallagher

The appointment of a member to replace Cllr. B. Coffey, who has resigned her membership, is a matter for our Board.”

On a proposal by Cllr. Coffey, seconded by Senator Roche, Cllr. Charles O'Connor was appointed to replace Cllr. Coffey.

45/1995
FAMILY PLANNING POLICY - GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH BOARDS

The following report no. 14/1995 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:
"I attach, for the information of members, a copy of Department of Health letter dated 22nd March, 1995 enclosing their document "Family Planning Policy - Guidelines for Health Boards."

Members will note that the Minister for Health has requested that an evaluation of current services, in the context of the Guidelines, be undertaken immediately and that a report, together with proposals for the development of services in our Board's area, be submitted to the Department of Health by the end of May. 1995.

Arrangements have been made for a full review of the adequacy of family planning services in our Board's area. The report on the outcome of this review will be considered by our Board at a special meeting to be arranged towards the end of May prior to its submission to the Department of Health."

On a proposal by Deputy Callery, seconded by Cllr. Ridge, the report was noted.

46/1995
FINANCIAL AND SERVICE PLANS 1995

The following report no. 15/1995 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:

"At the special meeting of our Board held on 13th March, 1995 to consider the determination of health expenditure and service priorities for 1995, it was agreed that the final versions of the Financial and Service Plans for each Programme would be circulated for consideration at the Board meeting to be held on 6th April prior to their submission to the Department of Health.

Copies of these Financial and Service Plans are attached."

On a proposal by Cllr. O'Connor, seconded by Dr. Hawkins, it was agreed to adopt the Report.

47/1995
PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEES

1. Special Hospital Care Programme Committee

On a proposal by Dr. Keane, seconded by Dr. Reilly, it was agreed to adopt the report. The following matters were dealt with in the report:

(a) Report on services in Stewart's Hospital, Palmerstown
(b) St. Loman's Hospital - security
(c) Filling of three posts of Consultant Psychiatrist in Child Psychiatry
(d) Report on Mental Handicap Services

2. General Hospital Care Programme Committee

On a proposal by Dr. Keane, seconded by Dr. Reilly, it was agreed to adopt the report. The following matters were dealt with in the report:
(a) Report on services in the District Hospital, Bahinglass
(b) Naas General Hospital review - reception by the Minister for Health of a deputation on 23rd March 1995.
(c) Establishment of Planning Group to plan the development of James Connolly Memorial Hospital
(d) Ambulance service
(c) Provision of appropriate levels of care for patients who are occupying acute hospital beds but who have completed the acute phase of their treatment

3. Community Care Programme Committee

On a proposal by Dr. Keane, seconded by Dr. Reilly, it was agreed to adopt the report. The following matters were dealt with in the report:-

(a) Report on services in Area no. 7
(b) Extension of eligibility for children's dental services
(c) Adoption Act 1995 - recognition of adoption orders granted outside the State
(d) Report on services in area no. 1
(e) E.S.R.I. report on drinking among post primary school pupils
(f) Major health centres - progress report

48/1995

NOTICES OF MOTION

1. The following motion was proposed by Deputy Shortall and seconded by Senator Roche:-

"Recent trials have shown Beta-Interferon is the most positive treatment for multiple sclerosis to date. Prior to product authorisation, it can be supplied on a 'named patient' basis. In order to make it available to patients within the Eastern Health Board area, the Board agrees to include Beta-Interferon amongst the list of medications which are prescribed on a 'named patient' basis."

Following a discussion to which Deputy Shortall, Senator Roche, Cllr. Dr. O'Connell, Dr. Reilly, Dr. Hawkins, Deputy Callery, Mr. McGuire, Mrs. Bonar, Cllr. Devitt and Dr. Fennell contributed, the Chief Executive Officer informed members that it had been indicated by the Department of Health that Beta-Interferon should be supplied on a named patient basis by the Hospital in which the prescribing Consultant is based. It was agreed to defer the motion pending further information regarding the cost being met by hospitals in future cases and also regarding payment of the cost of supplies of the drug already prescribed.

2. Motions in the name of Deputy Byrne regarding financial support and the rate of subvention for the National Multiple Sclerosis Care Centre in Rathgar were moved for reports.

4. The following motion was proposed by Cllr. T. Ridge and seconded by Dr. J. Reilly:-
"That this Board agree to seek a review of Disabled Persons Maintenance Allowance where such an allowance is withdrawn from a recipient due to her marriage (i.e. change of status from single to married.)"

In agreeing the motion, members asked that the Minister for Health be requested to review the Disabled Persons (Maintenance Allowances) Regulations and to relax the application of the means test used in assessing an applicant's income.

5. The motion in the name of Cllr. O'Connor and Cllr. Tipping regarding the Tallaght Homeless Advice Unit was, at their request, deferred to the May meeting of our Board.

6. The following motion was proposed by Deputy Callery,

"That the Eastern Health Board review our Board's policy with regard to availability of Dental Services/Screening to children in their local health centre."

The motion was seconded by Cllr. O'Connor. However, in the absence of a quorum, discussion on the terms of the motion was not brought to a conclusion.

5071995
CORRESPONDENCE

Items of correspondence, as referred to in the Chief Executive Officer's Report were noted.

The meeting concluded at 9.10 p.m.

CORRECT: K. J. HICKEY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CHAIRMAN