

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD MEETING

**Minutes of proceedings of Special Meeting
held in
The Boardroom, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8
on Thursday 11th May, 1995 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present

Mr. P. Aspell	Cllr. M. Barrett
Mrs. B. Bonar	Cllr. G. Brady
Cllr. B. Briscoe, T.D.	Cllr. E. Byrne, T.D.
Cllr. I. Callely, T.D.	Cllr. J. Connolly
Cllr. L. Creaven	Cllr. T. Cullen
Sen. J. Doyle	Cllr. K. Farrell
Cllr. C. Gallagher	Dr. D.I. Keane
Cllr. T. Keenan	Mr. G. McGuire
Cllr. M. McWey	Cllr. D. O'Callaghan
Cllr. Dr. W. O'Connell	Cllr. C. O'Connor
Cllr. J. Reilly	Cllr. K. Ryan
Cllr. R. Shortall, T.D.	Cllr. D. Tipping
Ms. M. Whitty	Dr. M. Wrigley

Apology

Ms. M. Nealon

In the Chair

Cllr. M. 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. B. O'Herlihy, Director of Public Health
 Mr. J. Curran, A/Technical Services Officer
 Mr. M. Gallagher, Finance Officer
 Ms. M. Kelly, Personnel Officer
 Mr. M. O'Connor, Secretary
 Mr. P. Doyle, Estate Management Officer

65/1995

REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY AND FOUR YEAR ACTION PLAN

1995/1998

Deputy Callely welcomed the very comprehensive report "Review of Services for the Elderly and Four Year Action Plan" (copy filed with official minute) and proposed that, to enable members to read the Report in detail and to study its recommendations carefully, the meeting should adjourn at 7 p.m and be re-convened on a future date. This was agreed by the members.

Following a discussion to which Deputy Callely, Cllr. Connolly, Cllr. Reilly, Cllr. O'Callaghan, Cllr. Dr. O'Connell, Cllr. Ryan, Cllr. Brady, Cllr. Tipping, Dr. Wrigley, Mr. McGuire and Mrs. Bonar contributed, and to which the Chief Executive Officer replied, it was agreed to adjourn the meeting to a date to be arranged.

The meeting concluded at 7 p.m.

CORRECT: KJ. HICKEY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CHAIRMAN

10th May, 1995

To/ *Each Member of the Eastern
Health Board*

Re: Review of Services for the Elderly - Four Year Action Plan 1995 -1998

The Eastern Health Board adopted a policy report on Services for the Elderly in 1989 and the current review addresses in particular:-

- [i] The up-to-date situation regarding the growth in the elderly population in the Eastern Health Board area.

The actual increase as shown by the 1991 Census and the projections recently issued by the Central Statistics Office exceed the projections available at the time the 1989 report was prepared. The actual and projected increases in the elderly population in our Board's area, and in particular those aged 75 years and over, provide a clear impetus for our Board to further develop an appropriate range of service responses.

- [ii] Progress on the implementation of the various policy recommendations adopted by our Board in 1989.

It will be seen from this section of the review report that significant progress has been made in the development of a wide range of services for the elderly to meet growing needs. The success of the Community Ward Scheme in dealing with almost 5,000 referrals in 1994 is notable. The growing number of referrals from hospital consultants should also be noted. Other areas of progress which merit special mention are the development of Departments of Medicine for the Elderly in acute general hospitals in our Board's area which is now almost complete and the significant progress in the development of Departments of Psychiatry of Old Age. Finally, there has been a significant growth in the number of beds for the elderly since the 1989 report.

- [iii] The review report also lists a number of developments aimed at ensuring that priority service needs are addressed within the shortest possible time frame.

In order to try and achieve this they are put forward in the context of a 4 - Year Action Plan 1995 - 1998. This proposed Action Plan has obvious and significant resource implications and will require careful consideration by our Board. It will also require to be negotiated with the Department of Health.

The proposed Action Plan incorporates planned developments aimed at completing the network of Departments of Medicine for the Elderly in the acute general hospitals in our Board's area and also expanding the coverage by the three Departments of Psychiatry of Old Age so that a service is available to every community care area. Another development, planned for this year, is the provision of a Stroke Care Service at Baggot Street Hospital.

Two complementary developments are put forward in the proposed Action Plan aimed at providing support services for the elderly and their carers either in their own homes or as near as possible to their own homes. The first proposal relates to the further development of the Community Ward Teams so that each Community Care area should have two such Teams by the end of 1997 increasing to three Teams per area by the middle of 1998.

Our Board's plans for the development of Community Units have been reviewed in the light of current needs. These units will have a pivotal role to play in the continuum of care services for the elderly. Such units will contain an active rehabilitation service and will act as step-down facilities for convalescent patients from the acute general hospitals. They will also be capable of providing much needed community support services through intermittent or respite care admissions and through day care services. It is estimated that in each Unit these particular services will be capable of supporting at least 300 elderly people and their carers in the local community at any given time. The units will of course be a significant resource for long-stay nursing care. The aim is that Community Units of the scale proposed would provide a responsive and quality service in support of the local community services including the Community Ward Teams whilst at the same time operating in a co-ordinated way with the acute general hospital services. This is shown in diagrammatic form in Appendix 1 attached.

The development of 9 Community Units in selected locations of need is put forward in the proposed 4 - Year Action Plan. The development of units at Sir Patrick Dun's, Navan Road and South Circular Road is already included in our Board's Capital Development Programme as approved by the Minister for Health and the timescale for the development of these units is as set out in the review report. The negotiations with the Department of Health on the proposed 4 - Year Action Plan must include the funding of the development of the other 6 Community Units proposed. These negotiations will in turn include the possibility of realising funds from the disposal of further surplus lands by our Board and in particular the St Clare's site. The latter disposal would provide us with capital funds which would enable us to provide the new Community Units on a site to be retained at St. Clare's and also on a site at Fairview. An offer for the purchase of the St. Clare's site and buildings, excluding the site of the proposed Community Unit, received from Dublin City University has received favourable consideration by the Budget Working Group for formal submission to our Board following the special meeting to consider the review report on services for the elderly.

The review report before the Board for consideration, including the proposed service developments as set out in the 4 - Year Action Plan 1995 - 1998, addresses the needs of the growing elderly population in our Board's area and the priority service needs which must be met if we are to maintain the necessary level of response in the face of this growing population. I recommend the Report and Action Plan to our Board for adoption.

K.J. Hickey,
Chief Executive Officer