

EASTERN HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Meeting
held in
the Boardroom, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8
on Thursday 4th February, 1999 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present

Mr. P. Aspell	Cllr. M. Barrett
Dr. S. Barry	Mrs. B. Bonar
Cllr. G. Brady	Cllr. B. Briscoe, T.D.
Cllr. L. Butler	Cllr. E. Byrne
Cllr. I. Callely, T.D.	Cllr. B. Coffey
Cllr. J. Connolly	Cllr. T. Cullen
Cllr. A. Devitt	Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne
Cllr. K. Farrell	Cllr. C. Gallagher
Dr. K. Harkin	Ms. Maria Hoban
Dr. Don Keane	Dr. R. Hawkins
Dr. M. Laffoy	Cllr. S. Laing
Mr. G. McGuire	Cllr. M. McWey
Cllr. Dr. B. O'Connell	Dr. P. O'Connell
Cllr. C. O'Connor	Cllr. C. Quinn
Cllr. J. Reilly	Cllr. K. Ryan
Dr. J. Reilly	Cllr. R. Shortall, T.D.
Cllr. P. Vance	

Apology

Dr. J. Fennell
Cllr. O. Mitchell, T.D.

In the Chair

Cllr. C. Gallagher

Officers in Attendance

Mr. P. McLoughlin, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. M. Walsh, Programme Manager
Mr. S. O'Brien, Programme Manager
Ms. M. Windle, Programme Manager
Ms. B. Clarke, Programme Manager
Mr. M. Gallagher, Programme Manager
Mr. Tony McMahon, Employee Relations Manager
Dr. B. O'Herlihy, Director of Public Health
Mr. J. Curran, Technical Services Officer
Mr. P. Doyle, Estate Management Officer
Ms. M. Browne, Communications Director
Ms O. Treacy, Secretary

14/1999

CONDOLENCES

On a proposal of the Chairman a vote of sympathy was passed with those whose names had been included on the list which was circulated to members.

15/1999

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

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

1. **Motion No. 8 on the agenda from Dr. Kieran Harlan.**
Dr. Kieran Harkin has requested that this motion be deferred to the March Board Meeting.
2. **Appointment of Mr. Martin Gallagher to Programme Manager, Health Promotion, Mental Health and Addiction and Social Development**
I wish to announce the appointment of Mr. Martin Gallagher to Programme Manager, Health Promotion, Mental Health, Addiction and Social Development following an internal competition.

16/1999

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 12th JANUARY, 1999.

The minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting held on 12th January 1999, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. C. O'Connor, seconded by Cllr. J. Connolly.

17/1999

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On a proposal by Cllr. M. Barrett, seconded by Dr. R. Hawkins, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged:-

1. **Cllr. Roisin Shortall. T .D**

"Will the Chief Executive Officer report on the progress to date on the provision of much needed drug rehabilitation services in Ballymun; will he report on the budget allocation for this services and when it is likely to be operational"?

Reply

Plans are being drawn up to provide an extension to the Drug Addiction Centre Domville House in Ballymun which will enable 1st level rehabilitation to be provided for up to 25 clients. Plans for this extension are at the design stage. A budget of £700,000 has been approved for this project. It is expected that the facilities will be available before the end of 1999.

Discussions are taking place with the Ballymun Task Force with a view to providing additional rehabilitation services in Ballymun.

The Boards Service Plan for 1999 provides for the appointment of three rehabilitation coordinators, one of whom will be allocated to the Northern Region. It is expected that these appointments will help to co-ordinate our Boards efforts and mat of community and voluntary groups in providing rehabilitation services.

2. **Cllr. Eric Byrne.**

"Would the Chief Executive Officer outline the numbers of councillors recruited to service the needs of Dublin 12 drug abusers and their families."

"Would he further outline his development plans for additional resources in this regard and will he make a statement on the matter."

Reply

At present, there is one addiction counsellor for the Crumlin area who is based at 515 Main Street, Tallaght. It is intended that this counsellor will be based at the new proposed Addiction Centre at Old County road. This counsellor also has office space with ARC (Addiction Response Crumlin) and operates from these premises on a part-time basis.

At present, the Eastern Health Board is negotiating with the local community organisations in relation to developing services at Old County Road, Crumlin and at Curlew Road, Drimnagh. As these services develop and come on stream, it will increase our need for counselling services in the area. It is intended at this point to provide a second addiction counsellor for the area. Currently there are 76 addicts from the Dublin 12 area attending Trinity Court and receiving counselling services there.

It is proposed that additional counselling services would be provided in the Crumlin/Drimnagh area as part of the Eastern Health Board's own development programme for training of Addiction Counsellors.

3. **Cllr. Roisin Shortall T.D.**

Will the Chief Executive Officer provide details of:-

1. How many chiropodists are on the official health board list providing chiropody services to Eastern Health Board patients on a full or part-time basis.
2. The total amount paid to these practitioners in each of the past three years for these services.
3. The highest sum paid to any one chiropodist who provided these services.

Reply

1. There are 57 chiropodists on the official list approved by the Department of Health and Children.
2. The total expenditure for the service is set out hereunder-

1996	£623,009
1997	£661,629
1998	£792,173

3. The highest sum paid to a chiropodist for 1998 was £40,338.

4. **Cllr. Charles O'Connor.**

"To ask the Chief Executive Officer to urgently make arrangements to grant Medical Cards to children in short term fostering (pre adoption) with families, noting that the absence of such provision could cause hardship and is something which should be in place and will he make a statement."

Reply

Medical cards are currently granted to all short-term and long-term foster children. In the case of short-term fostering, the medical card is normally issued care of the approved short-term foster parents rather than the child. This arrangement ensures continuation of medical care for all short-term foster children placed with approved foster parents. These arrangements have been in place for the last number of years.

5. Cllr. Charles O'Connor.

"To ask the Chief Executive Officer to confirm funding for a Women's Refuge in the Tallaght Region, detailing contacts in the matter and updating members on the proposals and will he make a statement"

Reply

Our Board has identified the need for a Women's Refuge to offer accommodation and support services to women and children, in the Tallaght region. This need was also identified in the Task Force Report on Violence Against Women, produced in 1997, by the Office of the Tanaiste.

Our Board has been in contact with a local group affiliated to the Tallaght Welfare Society which has spearheaded the development for a refuge as well as the introduction of a range of support services for victims of domestic violence, including community awareness, advice and information. This group, in co-operation with the Tallaght Welfare Society, have been requested to submit more detailed proposals for the creation of a Women's Refuge in the Tallaght region.

To assist the group with their tasks, a meeting was held in late 1998. Senior representatives of our Board's staff, relevant Voluntary groups and a group representative from South Dublin County Council attended this meeting.

The representative from South Dublin County Council stated that the County Council was very much in favour of such a project and indicated that capital assistance would be made available. No premises or site has been identified for consideration at this time. It has been suggested that the proposed refuge will be called South West Women's Refuge (S WWR)

The voluntary and statutory service providers present offered to provide a high level of advice and support on an ongoing basis, regarding many elements of the proposed project, including the role of the management board, staff training and recruitment

The 1999 Service Plan includes the allocation of £115,000 towards the planning and development of two refuges in the Board's region - Dublin South West and Kildare.

A total of £14,700 has been paid to the group in respect of setting up costs of an advice centre, training of volunteers and research on the nature and extent of domestic violence in Dublin South West Since the meeting in late 1998 a further grant of £5,000 was made to meet general ongoing expenses.

6. Cllr. Robin Shortall. T.D.

"Will the Chief Executive Officer provide details of all funding allocations made to the ISPCC for each year between 1994 and 1999, will he say what percentage of the total running costs of the organisation which this represents, will he further report on the number of referrals made by the ISPCC to this Board in each of these years and will he indicate if it is his view that the Board is receiving good value for these allocations."

Reply

I set out on the attached (table i) details of the funding allocations to the ISPCC for each year 1994-1999 together with the percentage this represents (table ii) of the organisations total running costs.

Our Boards grant consists of two elements: - (i) £0.085m in respect of the organisations central administration. Our Board took over the payment of this grant in 1991 from the Department of Health and Children. This was in line with revised arrangements for the payment of the annual grant to the ISPCC set out in the Department of Health and Children's letter of the 26/03/91. The grant has remained at the same level as 1991 for all subsequent years.

(ii) The balance of the grant aid £0.095m for years 1993/96 and £0.100m for years 1997/98 is towards the cost of services to children in community based projects as follows:

Neilstown Child and Parenting Centre
 West Dublin Childhood Support Worker
 STEPS Youth Advice and Drop in Centre
 Children's Rights Information Bureau
 North Dublin Childhood Support Worker
 Arklow Child and Parenting Centre
 North Wicklow Childhood Support Worker
 South Wicklow Childhood Support Worker
 Children's Rights Information Bureau, Arklow
 Kildare Childhood Support Worker
 Children's Rights Information Bureau, Kildare

The full costs of providing these services would be far greater than the grant paid by the Eastern Health Board to the ISPCC and therefore would be seen as good value.

During 1998 staff in Community Care Areas were consulted regarding the services provided by the ISPCC. The main focus of the work concerns Childhood Support Workers who contribute to child welfare at local level.

The number of referrals received from the ISPCC Childline is set out in the following table:

1994	42
1995	109 excluding Area 4 & 10
1996	139
1997	N/A
1998	140

A number of points should be emphasised

- (i) In a large number of cases the child is not identified, no address is given so it is not possible to establish what is the actual situation.
- (ii) Many calls received by Childline are from adults who remain anonymous. It is therefore not possible to establish their bonafides.

The number of referrals received are a very small percentage of all reported cases of child abuse which totalled 2368 in 1996 and 1909 in 1998.

I.S.P.C.C. FUNDING 1994-1999

Table (1)

* Total income per medical accounts	£1.448m	£1.919m	£2.019m	£2.408m	N/A	N/A
Eastern Health Board Grant incl. Above	£0.180m	£0.180m	£0.180m	£0.165m	£0.205m*	£0.015m

* Includes further grant of £0.020m in respect of 1997

Table (2)

(i) Total expenditure	£1.404m	£1.770m	£1.924m	£2.188m	N/A	N/A
(ii) Eastern Health Board grant expressed as % of (i) above	12.84%	10.17%	9.36%	8.23%	-	-

7. Cllr. Charles O'Connor.

'To ask the Chief Executive Officer to update the Board regarding the negotiations in respect of the proposed move of the St Loman's Unit to Tallaght Hospital and make a statement''

Reply

Our Board continues to make strenuous efforts to finalise the move to Tallaght Hospital at a early date. New proposals to try and break the deadlock in the industrial relations area are being communicated to the Labour Relations Commission to form the basis of further negotiations with the parties. Our Board's solicitors have forwarded our views on the final draft service contract to the solicitors representing the Tallaght Hospital.

18/1999

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The Chief Executive Officer read die following report which was approved by the Board:-

1. Re-Appointment - Beaumont Hospital Board

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of letters dated 12* January, 1999 and 21" January, 1999 advising that Mr. Seamus O'Brien, Programme Manager, Acute Hospital and Services for the Elderly has been re-appointed as a member of the Beaumont Hospital Board. The appointment is for a term of one year ending on 3rd December, 1999.

2. Drug Treatment Services

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of my letter dated 15* January, 1999 to Mr. Jim Mitchell, T.D., Chairman, Public Accounts Committee regarding remarks which were quoted and attributed to the Chairman and members of the Public Accounts Committee in relation to drug treatment services, which was discussed at our monthly Board meeting on 14* January, 1999.

In addition I have enclosed Deputy Jim Mitchell's response to me dated 21st January, 1999 advising that the Public Accounts Committee intend to have a further hearing on the Drugs Initiatives area in the next couple of months and it is his intention to invite a number of Departments and Boards to be represented at the hearing including the Eastern Health Board.

Rent Supplements

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of my letter dated 15th January, 1999 Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer, Secretary General, Department of Health and Children seeking clarification *the* progress being made in relation to the transfer of responsibility for the payment of rent supplements from the Health Board to the Local Authority.

I will keep members advised of progress on this matter.

4. Destruction of Controlled Drugs

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of letter dated 18th January, 1999 from the Department of Health and Children regarding regulations which establish authorised officers for the purpose of witnessing the destruction of controlled drugs under Article 22 of the Misuse of Drug Regulations, 1988.

5. Library Equipment - Mental Handicap School of Nursing

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of letter dated 27th January, 1999 from the Department of Health and Children confirming payment of a once-off grant of £30,000 for the purchase of equipment for the library attached to the Mental Handicap School of Nursing.

6. Increased Grant for Nursing Students and New Nursing Education Forum

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of Press Release dated 20th January, 1999 announcing an increased annual maintenance grant of £3,250 payable to nursing students, and the establishment of a Representative Nursing Education Forum.

The Minister has also provided funding of £350,000 to an Bord Altranais and to various Schools of Nursing for a promotional campaign, at both local and national level, aimed at attracting more young people to nursing.

The Minister expressed the hope that the recruitment drive mat is currently under way, together with the increase in the maintenance grant, would result in an increased level of interest in Psychiatric and Mental Handicap Nursing.

The Minister also announced the establishment of the representative *Nursing Education Forum* recommended by the Commission on Nursing, to prepare a strategy for moving pre-registration nursing education to a four year degree programme in time for the intake of nursing students in the year 2002.

7. Psychiatric Nursing/Marketing Campaign

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of letter dated 26th January, 1999 from Department of Health and Children advising of payment of a once-off grant of £10,000 to enable our two Schools of Psychiatric Nursing to prepare materials to promote psychiatric nursing as a profession.

8. Irish Health Service Management Institute

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of letter dated 25th January, 1999 from Department of Health and Children advising that a sum of £5,000 is being made available to our Board for payment to the Irish Health Service Management Institute to assist it in its endeavours and broaden its base outside of Dublin.

9. Accident and Emergency Services

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of Press Release dated 15th January, 1999 in relation to Accident and Emergency Services in which the Minister indicated that the current level of attendance at the Accident and Emergency Departments is higher than expected for the time of year. Over half a million people attend Accident and Emergency Departments in Ireland every year, a significant number of whom could be treated as effectively, and far faster, by their family doctor. Before going to the Accident and Emergency Department, therefore, people should first consult their family doctor, who would then decide whether or not the person needs to attend hospital.

10. Waiting List

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of a Press Release dated 21st January, 1999 in which Mr. Brian Cowan, T.D., Minister for Health and Children, rejected claims by Irish Hospitals Consultants Association Secretary General, Mr. Finbarr Fitzpatrick that the Minister's Department were seeking to reduce waiting list artificially.

11. Statement on Tallaght Hospital

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of Press Release dated 27th January, 1999 in which the Minister for Health and Children, Mr. Brian Cowan, T.D., announces establishment of a group to oversee the implementation of the Deloitte & Touche Report on Tallaght Hospital.

The membership of the group is as follows :-

- Chairman, Mr. Kevin Bonner, Former Secretary General of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.
- Mr. Donal O'Shea, Chief Executive Officer of the North Eastern Health Board and Chairman of the Task Force on the Eastern Regional Health Authority.
- Professor John Murray, Professor of Business Studies, Trinity College, Dublin.

12. Paediatric Haematology Services

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copies of Press Release dated 28th January, 1999 in which Mr. Brian Cowan, T.D., Minister for Health and Children states that Public hospitals in Dublin, Cork and Galway currently providing paediatric haematology services were advised last week by the Department of Health and Children that following a recommendation by the National Cancer Forum, all children with cancer will initially be referred to Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin, Dublin for assessment and advice/referral on treatment

The National Cancer Forum is an expert body, chaired by Professor James Fennelly, which advises the Minister on all aspects of cancer services. Its principal concern is the quality of care and service which offers best outcome for patients.

13. Protections for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act, 1998

I have circulated with the agenda papers for this meeting copy of Press Release dated 28th January, 1999 in which Minister Frank Fahy said that all members of the public should be aware of the content of the Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act, 1998.

The Act provides immunity from civil liability to any person who reports child abuse "reasonably and in good faith" to designated officers of health boards or any member of An Garda Síochána.

Eastern Health Board Project on Primary Health Care for Travellers

I wish to advise members that the Eastern Health Board Project on Primary Health Care for Travellers (Gypsy - Roma Community) has received an award from the World Health Organisation for achievement worthy of international recognition. This World Health Organisation 50 Anniversary Commemorative Certificate has been awarded to this project for promotion of health for all, value of equity, solidarity, participation, intersectorial approaches and partnership.

19/1999

HEALTH PROMOTION STRATEGY.

Following a discussion to which Cllr. J. Connelly, Cllr. E. Byrne, Dr. S. Barry, Dr. B. O'Connell, Cllr. A. Devitt, Cllr. M. Barrett, Dr. M. Laffoy, Deputy Callely, Dr. R. Hawkins, Dr. K. Harkin and Cllr. S. Laing contributed, it was agreed to refer Report No. 3/1999 (copy filed with official minute) to the next Programme Committee meeting.

20/1999

PATIENT COMFORT SYSTEM.

It was agreed on a proposal by Mr. G. McGuire, seconded by Dr. R. Hawkins to implement Report No. 4/1999 (copy filed with official minute).

21/1999

PROGRESS REPORT FROM PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

1. *Services for Persons with Disabilities.*

On a proposal by Deputy Callely, seconded by Cllr. M. Barrett, it was agreed to adopt the report. The following matters were dealt with in the report.

- (a) Additional Development Funding 1999 - Mental Handicap Services.
- (b) Additional Development Funding 1999 - Physical and Sensory Disabilities Services.
- (c) Physical and Sensory Disabilities Services - CCA 8.
- (d) Progress Report of Developments at St Ita's Hospital.

2. *Acute Hospitals and Services for the Elderly.*

On a proposal by Cllr. J.D. Byrne, seconded by Mr. G. McGuire it was agreed to adopt the report. The following matters were dealt with in the report.

- (a) Management Advisory Group - Naas General Hospital.
- (b) Community Unit for Older People, Dalkey.
- (c) Dependency levels - Bria Chaoimhin.

3. *Community Services and Services for Children and Families.*

On a proposal by Deputy Callely, seconded by Cllr. J.D. Byrne, it was agreed to adopt the report. The following matters were dealt with in the report

- (a) Report on Services in CCA 6.
 - The targeting of teenage mothers for Health Promotion Initiatives.
 - The refurbishment of health centres in Mountview, Castleknock and Lisburn Street
 - The uptake target for immunisations.
 - The review of Community Ward Schemes.

- The establishment of the North Inner Primary Care Project.
- (b) Report of the GMS (Payments) Board.
- The new Drugs Scheme.
 - The ingredient cost of drugs.

22/1999

NOTICES OF MOTION

- (i) The following motion was proposed by Deputy Callely, seconded by Cllr. Anne Devitt:-

"That the Eastern Health Board calls on the relevant authorities to agree that the criteria to enter student nurse training in Ireland should be similar to those of the U.K. given the current demand for nurses in Ireland and the need to try and encourage applicants to stay within the Irish system."

Following a discussion to which Cllr. Quinn, Cllr. Byrne, Cllr. Dillon-Byrne, Ms. Hoban, Cllr. Butler, Mrs. Boner, Mr. McGuire, Cllr. Vance, Dr. Reilly, Dr. Harkin and Cllr. Devitt contributed. Deputy Callely proposed an amendment as follows-

"That the Eastern Health Board request the relevant authorities to review the criteria to enter student nurse training in Ireland given the current demand for nurses in Ireland and the need to try and encourage applicants to stay within the Irish system."

Following a vote of a show of hands, the amendment to the motion was defeated. Deputy Callely withdrew the original motion proposed.

- (ii) The following motion was proposed by Cllr. Byrne, seconded by Mrs. Boner:-

"That this Board views with alarm the growth in the number often, twelve and fourteen years old boys and girls who are dropping out of school and who are in need of structured support

As there are parts of the Dublin South inner City being particularly badly affected by this growing phenomenon this Board agrees to support the recently submitted proposals for the Rialto area entitled "Neighbourhood Youth Project" and that the new area manager be fully involved in its implementation."

The motion was agreed pending completion of a proposal to develop a Neighbourhood Youth Project in the area.

- (iii) The following motion was proposed by Deputy Shortall:-

That the number of parent representatives on the Central Planning Committee for Mental Handicap services be increased to two and that this Board agrees that under the restructuring arrangements that there will be C.P.C. for each new area Health Board and that each shall have two parent representatives."

Ms. Windle, Programme Manager informed members that there has been parental representation on our Board's Central Planning Committee since 1992. A Department of Health and Children circular stipulated that one parent nominated by NAMHI would represent parents on the committee.

The report of the working group on the implementation of the Health Strategy in relation to persons with a mental handicap "Enhancing the Partnership" sets out the recommendations for a national framework with which the transfer of responsibility for the direct funded

voluntary mental handicap agencies will take place. Our Boards letter of allocation dated 2nd December 1998 states that with effect from 1st January 1999, tripartite discussions on this process will commence between the Department of Health, the direct funded voluntary mental handicap agencies and our Board, with a view to implementing the transfer process in the year 2000. This process will involve the replacement of the existing Central Planning Committee with two separate Committees as follows:-

Mental Handicap Services Consultative Committee (MHSCC) Mental
Handicap Services Development Committee (MHSDC)

"Enhancing the Partnership document" sets out the membership of these new Committees and further states the Mental Handicap Services Consultative Committee should include "Representatives of parents/families of persons with a mental handicap nominated by the National Association of the Mentally Handicapped of Ireland".

The document recommends that each Health Board should have both a Mental Handicap Services Consultative Committee and Mental Handicap Services Development Committee, however the number of Committees in each of the new Area Health Boards will be determined by the new Eastern Regional Health Authority.

The motion was noted.

- (iv) The notice of motion in the name of Cllr. O'Connor was not moved.
- (v) A report was circulated in response to Deputy Callely's motion, "That this Board agree to put in place a prostate screening programme in 1999", which was noted.
- (vi & vii) The motions in the name of Deputy Mitchell were not moved.
- (viii) The motion in the name of Dr. Harkin regarding "cigarettes" was, at his request, deferred to the March meeting of our Board.
- (ix) The following motion was proposed by Deputy Shortall and seconded by Mrs. Boner:-

"That the Board review the funding arrangements to the ISPCC in light of public concerns raised recently, and with a view to ascertaining the effectiveness or otherwise of the various campaigns and services run by that organisation."

Following a discussion to which Mrs. Boner, Cllr. Byrne, Dr. Harkin, Cllr. Dillon-Byrne, Dr. Reilly and the Chairperson contributed. The Chief Executive Officer circulated a statement regarding the Eastern Health Board's involvement with the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and advised members that permission had been sought from the ISPCC to allow the Board's auditors an opportunity to review in detail the records relating to the expenditure by the ISPCC of the public funds channelled through the Eastern Health Board annually. The Chief Executive Officer advised members that the ISPCC had confirmed that they had no difficulty in permitting the Board's auditors an opportunity to review the records in relation to such payments. Arrangements are being made to have this review carried out immediately. It was agreed to defer a decision on this motion pending completion of the auditors report.

The meeting concluded at 8.40 p.m.

CORRECT: PAT MCLOUGHLIN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER


CHRISTOPHER GALLAGHER
CHAIRMAN