



EASTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

**Minutes of proceedings of Board Meeting
held in the Board Room, Dr Steevens Hospital, Dublin 8,
on Thursday 3rd April 2003 at 6.00 p.m..**

Present

Mr. Paddy Aspell	Dr. Siobhan Barry
Cllr. Christy Burke	Cllr Laurence Butler
Cllr. Eric Byrne	Mr. Martin Cowley
Cllr. Tommy Cullen	Cllr. Jim Daly
Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne	Mr. John Dolan
Cllr. Pat Doran	Alderman Joe Doyle
Cllr. Andrew Doyle	Mr. Joe Fallon
Cllr. Pat Hand	Dr. Kieran Harkin
Ms. Anne Harris	Ms. Noeleen Harvey
Cllr. Deirdre Heney	Ms. Maria Hoban
Dr. Marie Laffoy	Mr. Paul Ledwidge
Cllr. Colm McGrath	Mr. Gerry McGuire
Cllr. Martin Miley	Dr. Michael Molloy
Alderman Mary Mooney	Dr. Bernard Murphy
Mr. Michael Murphy	Cllr Eamonn O'Brien
Mrs. Catherine Quinn	Cllr. James Reilly
Cllr. Thérèse Ridge	Cllr. John Stafford
Cllr. Don Tipping	Cllr. Larry Tuomey

In the Chair

Alderman Joe Doyle

Apologies

Cllr. Dr. Dermot Fitzpatrick TD, Cllr. Dermot Murray

In Attendance

Mr M Lyons, Mr. L. Woods, Mr J Breslin, Ms Angela Fitzgerald, Ms M Browne,
Mr. Martin Devine; Dr. Marie Laffoy, Ms. Sile Fleming; Mr. Dougie Beaton;
Mr. Mark Fagan; Ms. Carmel Beirne; Ms. Ruth Ryan;
Ms. Carol Ivory Ms Helen Stokes

Opening Prayer

03/04/30 Chairman's Business

Agenda Item No. 1

On his own behalf and on behalf of the members, the Chairman congratulated Dr Mick Molloy on his recent marriage and wished Dr Molloy and his wife a long and happy life together.

Forthcoming Meetings:-

- The next meeting of the Protocol Committee is scheduled for Friday 4th April at 2.30pm in Dr Steevens' Hospital.
- The next meeting of the Continuing Care & Social Services Committee is scheduled for Monday 7th April 2003 at 11.00 a.m. at which the Youth Advocacy Programme will be discussed.
- The next meeting of the Finance & Property Committee is scheduled for Friday 11th April 2003 at 11.00 a.m. in Dr Steevens' Hospital
- The next meeting of the Acute Hospitals & Primary Care Committee is scheduled for Monday 21st April 2003 at 6.00p.m.

03/04/31 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Agenda item No. 2

The draft minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 6th March 2003 and 19th March 2003 (copies appended to the official minute), having been circulated, were proposed for adoption by Cllr. Christy Burke, seconded by Cllr. Larry Butler and agreed.

03/04/32 Questions to Chief Executive

Agenda item No. 3

On the proposal of Cllr. Pat Doran, seconded by Cllr. Thérèse Ridge, the questions were moved for reply by the Chief Executive.

3.1 Dr. Siobhan Barry

Could the CEO inform the Board of the complete cost (including shared central costs of staffing, laundry, pharmacy, capital expenditure and depreciation) of an acute adult bed within the Mental Health Services of the ERHA? Could the CEO furthermore comment on disparities in costs between services, if these arise?

Reply

Approach

Cost per bed for each facility is shown in the attached Table. However it is clear from the range of costs - €119,000 per bed down to €63,000 per bed – that these costs have not been calculated by agencies on a standardised basis and that there are comparability, coding and other issues to be addressed. These figures do not include capital.

The Authority sought costings from each of the agencies within the region which provide acute adult psychiatric beds. There are a range of variables which affect calculation of unit costs. These include sophistication of IT systems, accuracy of coding, level of fixed costs, apportionment rules for so-called 'central' costs and treatment of capital.

Agencies were asked to attempt to derive unit costs by quantifying relevant costs of acute adult beds, and to apportion relevant other costs such as central overhead. It is clear from the results presented that a considerable and lengthy costing project would be required in order to accurately derive unit costs in this area. Such a project is underway in Childcare as part of the Regional Childcare Framework, and is proposed as part of the implementation process of the Mental Health Framework.

The ERHA acknowledges the need to undertake further work to comment in a meaningful way on variations in cost. We emphasise that the costs are only an early indication based upon existing data. A more comprehensive process of review and analysis of both activity and resources will be required prior to making any comments on relative cost.

Findings

The Authority commissions psychiatric beds in three ways: -

1. Area Board directly operated services e.g. St Brendan's
2. Area Board S65 grants to Voluntary hospitals e.g. St Aloysius Ward, Mater Hospital
3. Voluntary hospital – ERHA directly funded e.g. St Vincent's Fairview

The agencies examined in the current exercise were:-

AHB	CC A	Agency	No of Beds	Cost Per Bed €
ECAHB	1	St John of God - Cluain Mhuire – voluntary hospital ERHA directly funded (Schedule 2)	42	78,362
ECAHB	2	Vergemount Hospital – ECAHB funded	29	79,309
ECAHB	2	St Vincent's - Elm Park – voluntary hospital ERHA directly funded-(Schedule 2)	22	78,233
ECAHB	10	Newcastle Hospital – ECAHB funded	30	68,433
SWAHB	3	St James Hospital – funded by SWAHB as Section 65 grant	50	69,941
SWAHB	4/5	Tallaght Hospital – funded by SWAHB as Section 65 grant	50	94,090
SWAHB	9	Naas Hospital – SWAHB funded	30	93,586
NAHB	6	James Connolly Memorial – NAHB funded	20	63,554

NAHB	6	St Brendan's Hospital – NAHB funded	52	119,843
NAHB	8	St Ita's Hospital – NAHB funded	48	119,843
NAHB	7	St Vincent's – Fairview – voluntary hospital ERHA directly funded (Schedule 2)	30	73,100
NAHB	7	Mater Hospital – funded by NAHB as S65 grant	14	66,322
			417	

3.2 Dr. Siobhan Barry

Could the CEO inform the Board of the number of permanent and temporary Consultant Psychiatrist staff employed in the eastern region? In the case of non-permanent Consultant Psychiatrist staff, could the CEO inform the Board of the duration of these posts and whether they are approved or non-approved by Comhairle na n-Oispidéal?

Reply

There are five Consultant Posts in the Central Mental Hospital.

Two of these posts are filled on a permanent basis i.e.:

Dr. Harry Kennedy (Acting Clinical Director)

Dr. Art O'Connor

The remaining three posts are full-time posts and will be advertised as such, but are presently filled on a temporary basis in the following capacity, i.e.:

Dr. Damien Mohan (full-time)

Dr. Helen O'Neill (full-time)

Dr. Charles Smith (part-time)

The three temporary posts are approved by Comhairle na n-Oispideal and have been referred to the Local Appointments Commission for permanent recruitment.

Dr Siobhan Barry drew the Chairman's attention to the inaccurate reply to question 3.2 and it was agreed that an amended reply would issue to Dr Barry and an amended response would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting as follows:-

3.2 Dr. Siobhan Barry

The National Forensic Service:

Could the CEO inform the Board of the number of permanent and temporary Consultant Psychiatrist staff employed *above*? In the case of non-permanent Consultant Psychiatrist staff, could the CEO inform the Board of the duration

of these posts and whether they are approved or non-approved by Comhairle na n-Oispidéal?

Reply

In 1999, two permanent Consultant posts existed at the Central Mental Hospital (CMH), Dr. Charles Smith, Clinical Director and Dr. Art O'Connor.

In that year, funding was received for a third Consultant post, and Dr. Harry Kennedy was employed in a permanent capacity in 2000.

Two further posts were agreed with the Department of Health and Children in 2000 and part funded. These posts were agreed by Comhairle na n-Oispidéal and were advertised by the Local Appointments Commission in December 2002, but candidates have not yet been interviewed.

Pending permanent appointments being made, both posts are being provided for, in a temporary capacity since October 2001, by Dr. Damien Nolan and Dr. Helen O'Neill. Full year costs for both posts were also made available in 2002. In November 2002 Dr. Charles Smith retired. That replacement post is currently being processed by the East Coast Area Health Board for approval by Comhairle na n-Oispidéal. In the interim Dr. Kennedy is Acting Clinical Director and Dr. Smith remains working as a locum in that vacant post.

3.3 Cllr Olivia Mitchell

To ask the CEO if he would report on the level of funding for the Spinal Injuries Action Association in 2003 and how it compares with last year and if promised funding can be delivered.

Reply

The Authority is aware of the excellent work of the Spinal Injuries Action Association in assisting those persons throughout the country who have sustained serious spinal injury. This organisation is one of many such agencies in the East, all of which render vital care and support services to persons with physical and sensory disability, in the community. Some of these agencies, while based in the East, are national in scope. The Authority endeavours to support the valuable work of such agencies to the greatest possible extent.

The Spinal Injuries Action Association has been funded by the Authority via the East Coast Area Health Board. In 2002, a once off amount of 50,000 euros was allocated to the Association, while a further 28,000 euros was allocated as a half year cost towards implementation of a Peer Counselling programme. Rollover costs for this project will be provided for this programme in 2003. Monies allocated by the ECAHB for 2003 also include a recurring amount of 41,901 euros towards addressing cost pressures.

At the same time, the Association has – through the ECAHB – been facilitated in establishing links with other Health Boards beyond the East. Through strengthening of these links it is envisaged that the Association would be in a position to source further funding and support via these Boards.

**03/04/33 Report 12/03 Consolidated Annual Financial Statements for the
Year ended 31st December 2002**

Agenda Item No. 4

Mr Mark Fagan, Regional Financial Accountant presented Report 12/03 - Consolidated Annual Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2002 (*copy appended to the official minute*). There followed a discussion to which the following members contributed:- The Chairman, Cllr E Byrne, Dr M Molloy, Cllr J Dillon Byrne, Mr P Ledwidge, and Mr M Cowley. The members sought clarification around the capital expenditure and grants to section 65 agencies.

Mr Liam Woods, Finance Director clarified the position on the issues raised.

On the proposal of Councillor E O'Brien, seconded by Mr J Fallon, the Consolidated Annual Financial Statements for the Year ended 31st December 2002 were adopted by the Board.

**03/04/34 Report 13/03 Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) –
The Story so Far**

Agenda Item No. 5

Dr Marie Laffoy presented Report 13/03 Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) – The Story so Far (*copy appended to the official minute*). There followed a discussion to which the following members contributed:- Cllr E Byrne, Cllr T Cullen, Cllr J Stafford, Cllr J Reilly, and Mr J Fallon. The members sought clarification about the spread of the disease and the monitoring mechanisms in place. Dr Laffoy clarified the position in relation to these issues and advised members that she will continue to work closely with the Department of Health and Children and the National Disease Surveillance Centre in monitoring the progress of the disease and she undertook to keep the members advised of developments in this regard.

On the proposal of Cllr E Byrne, seconded by Cllr C Burke, Report No 13/03 was noted.

03/04/35 Motions

Agenda Item No. 6

Dr Kieran Harkin, in proposing his motion for debate, asked that the following amended motion be considered by the Board.

"That this Board request the Chief Executive in co-operation with the Department of Health and Children to ensure that each client who is dispensed "take home" methadone is issued with a device enabling them to measure their daily dosage with accuracy".

Cllr Therese Ridge seconded the amended motion and the motion was moved for debate. In speaking to the motion Dr Harkin expressed concern at the possible risks for others, especially children, where clients were using unsuitable containers, such as baby bottles, to measure daily dosage.

There followed a discussion to which the following members contributed:-
Cllr T Ridge, Ms M Hoban, Cllr C Burke, Cllr E Byrne, Cllr J Dillon Byrne and Ms N Harvey and the following issues were raised:-

- Client responsibility in managing the methadone maintenance
- Possibility of misuse of methadone by clients
- Extension of the proposal to include geriatric medicines
- Dispensing of Methadone

On the proposal of Dr K Harkin, seconded by Cllr T Ridge, the motion was agreed. At the request of the Chairman, the Chief Executive agreed to carry out research to identify the difficulties arising in dispensing the methadone and to report to the Board on his findings before approaching the Department of Health & Children.

03/04/36 Chief Executive's Report
Agenda Item No. 7

The Chief Executive's Report (*copy appended to the official minute*) was circulated. The report dealt with the following items:

- The Review of St Louise's and St Clare's Units.
- Expansion of BreastCheck
- The Treatment Purchase Fund
- List of Publications

There followed a discussion to which the following members contributed:-
Cllr D Heney, Dr K Harkin, Ms C Quinn, Cllr L Butler, Cllr D Tipping and the Chairman.

The Chief Executive agreed to report to the Board with regular updates on the St. Louise and St. Clare's review.

In responding to the discussion Mr Jim Breslin, Director of Planning, Commissioning and Change undertook to revert to members with details on the advertising spend for the Treatment Purchase Fund. It was also agreed that the monthly updates would include data on total referrals.

On a proposal by Cllr. L Butler, seconded by Cllr C Burke, the Chief Executive's Report, as circulated, was noted.

03/04/37 **Date & Time of Next Meeting**
Agenda Item No. 8

The date and time for the next meeting was agreed for Thursday 1st May 2003 at 18:00 in the Board Room, Dr. Steevens' Hospital.

The meeting concluded at 7.35 pm

CORRECT

Michael Lyons
Regional Chief Executive



ALDERMAN Joe Doyle
Chairman

DATE