

12th June, 2002

Do gach Comhalta den mBord

A Chara,

The monthly meeting of the Northern Area Health Board will be held in **The Boardroom, Northern Area Health Board Headquarters, Unit B, Swords Business Campus, Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin on Thursday 20th June, at 5.00pm.** Tea is arranged for 4.30 pm.

Hereunder is the agenda.

Mise, le meas,

M. Windle

PRIOMH FEIDHMEANNACH

CLAR

1. Chairmans Business
2. Minutes of proceedings of Monthly Board Meeting held on 16th May, 2002 (copy herewith)
3. Questions to the Chief Executive
4. Chief Executive's Report (to be circulated at meeting)
5. Report from Finance & Property Committee (Meeting held 22nd May, 2002) (*Report No F5/2002 to be circulated*)
6. Report on Capital Projects under the National Development Plan (*Report No 24/2002 herewith*)
7. Progress Report – Orthodontic Service (*Report No 25/2002 herewith*)
8. Report on Emergency Accommodation Placement Service for Homeless Persons (*Report No 26/2002 herewith*)
9. Up-date Draft Development Plan – St. Joseph's Hospital, Raheny (*Report No 27/2002 to be circulated*)
10. Progress Report on Human Resources (*Report No 28/2002 to be circulated*)

11. Report from Standing Committees

(a) Community Services and Continuing Care

(b) Acute Hospitals and Primary Care

12. Motions

11.1 Cllr R Shortall

“That the Board provide funding for the Carmichael Centre to support its immediate refurbishment”.

11.2 Cllr R Shortall

“That the Chief Executive outline the current policy in respect of long-term patients in psychiatric hospitals not being facilitated in the purchase of cigarettes and that arrangements be made to assist such patients who do not have regular visitors”.

13. Matters for Mention

NORTHERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of proceedings of monthly Board Meeting
of the Northern Area Health Board held in the
Boardroom NAHB Headquarters, Swords Business Campus
Balheary Road, Swords, Co. Dublin
On Thursday, 20th June, 2002, at 5.00pm**

Members in Attendance

Cllr. C Burke
Mr M Cowley
Mr L Creaven
Mr J Fallon
Ms N Harvey
Cllr D Heney
Mr G McGuire
Cllr D Murray
Cll E O'Brien
Cllr M O'Donovan
Mr L Tuomey

In the Chair

Cllr. Anne Devitt

Apologies

Dr B Murphy
Dr J Reilly
Cllr R Shortall, T.D.

Officers in Attendance

Ms M. Windle, Chief Executive
Mr M. Walsh, Asst, Chief Executive
Mr J. Cahill, Asst Chief Executive
Mr P. Dunne, Asst Chief Executive
Ms A Kerrigan, Asst Chief Executive
Ms M. Kelly, Director of Human Resources
Ms D Dunne, Planning & Development
Ms B Kelly, Secretariat
Ms M O'Sullivan Secretariat
Ms K Fagan, Secretariat
Ms J Ebbs, Operations
Ms M. Farrell, Operations
Mr S McGrath, Communications
Mr J. Murphy, Board Secretary

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CHAIRMANS BUSINESS

I am sure members will join with me in expressing sincere sympathy with those whose names have been included on the list of condolences, which has been circulated to members.

2. Schedule of Meetings/Visits

A copy of schedule of forthcoming meetings/visits has been circulated to all members with particular attention to the following :-

- Special Board Meeting
Tuesday 25th June, 2002 at 9.30am
(Annual Report)
- Annual General Meeting
Thursday 11th July, 2002 at 5.00pm, followed by
Ordinary Monthly Board Meeting

Please Note: It was agreed to re-schedule the Annual General Meeting and the Ordinary Meeting to **Wednesday 10th July, 2002 at 5.00pm.**

3. Congratulations

I wish to congratulate Dep I Callely, Dep R Shortall and Dep Dr Fitzpatrick on their election to Dail Eireann.

May I extend congratulations to Dep Ivor Callely, a member of this Board, on his promotion to the post of Junior Minister, Department of Health & Children, with responsibility for Services for Older Persons.

It was agreed to seek an early meeting between members of our Board and Minister Callely in relation to services for the elderly.

4. Visits to "Seven Oaks" – Derry

At the last meeting of our Board's Finance & Property Committee (Report No F5/2002 on the Agenda for this meeting refers), a presentation was made by FOLD, a Voluntary Housing Association, on a proposed development of a Social Housing Scheme and Day Care Facility for persons suffering from Alzheimers on a site at Hartstown, in partnership with our Board and Fingal County Council.

FOLD have developed a similar complex called "Seven Oaks" near Derry, which I visited recently. A similar model of development scheduled on a site at Hartstown is be a very welcome.

5. Official Openings

Official openings of the following facilities will be planned in the near future:-

- (1) Clonmethan Village Complex for Intellectual Disability Services
- (2) Lusk Community Unit for the elderly
- (3) Darndale Primary Health Care Centre

Members will be informed of arrangements for these openings in due course.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

16th May, 2002

On a proposal by Cllr A Devitt and seconded by Cllr e O'Brien, the minutes of the Board Meeting held on 16th May, 2002 were agreed.

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QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

On a proposal by Cllr C Burke and seconded by Mr Fallon, it was agreed to answer the questions lodged.

1. Cllr E O'Brien

“To ask the Chief Executive if she would make a statement on opiate abuse and treatment facilities in the Ballymun/Poppintree areas.

Given that there is a known figure of 683 opiate users in this area with 307 in treatment and 112 attending GPs this leave over 200 addicts knocking on doors or treatment.

What are the intentions of the Chief Executive to deal with this growing crisis in human misery ?”

Reply

The Addiction Service of the Northern Area Health Board provides a range of services for opiate users in the Ballymun / Poppintree area including methadone treatment programmes, counselling, needle exchange and education / prevention initiatives. As drug abuse is an illicit activity it is difficult to estimate the number of drug users in our area. The number of drug users known to our service includes the number of clients in treatment and those waiting for treatment.

An analysis of these clients in treatment is as follows:

Domville House	286
Mobile Clinic	26
GP Protocol	112
Trinity Court	7
Total	431
Numbers Attending Needle Exchange	25

Since December 2001 fifty-four additional clients have commenced treatment in the Ballymun area.

At present we have two clients waiting for drug treatment for our Boards drug services and we have no evidence of 200 clients waiting for treatment as reported. Furthermore attendance for treatment is voluntary and clients only access services when ready to do so. Our Outreach Team provides outreach service to clients in the community setting (with individuals / families and in group settings) as appropriate.

Our Board has recently appointed a Rehabilitation Manager and Integration workers in the Ballymun area. They will work with clients to develop individual plans to evaluate the interventions required to facilitate progression towards a more self-directed, independent life. Our Board continues to provide a comprehensive range of services in this area, monitoring local demand for services and responding accordingly. In addition we support the Springboard, Star and Ballymun Youth Action Projects with Section 65 funding annually.

2. Cllr C Burke

“To ask the Chief Executive to outline preventive measures in place in the Northern Area Health Board in respect of Suicide Prevention in view of the high number of suicides over the last five weeks in the Sean McDermott Street area”.

Reply

The structures for addressing the issue of suicide in our Board (NAHB) are as follows. A Resource Officer has been in post since January, 2001 with administration support. An interagency Steering Group for suicide prevention was established in April 2001. A number of working groups were established in late 2001 to develop a strategy for suicide prevention for the NAHB. Following feedback and revisions a draft of this document has been

circulated to Health Service Managers for consultation and a health sector consultation forum is planned for the 17th of July, 2002. An additional forum for other key stakeholders such as Voluntary Sector Groups, Gardaí, Clergy is also planned following which a draft strategy will be brought to our Board.

At this stage a number of activities are already underway in the northern area to address this issue. Some of these are presented as follows:

Health Sector

1. One-day suicide awareness training sessions for NAHB staff were held in the three Community Care Areas in May 2002.
2. A four-day training programme for healthcare professionals to enable them to provide awareness training to their colleagues is organised for September and October.
3. The ERHA has provided funding for a new nursing post within the Emergency Department in Temple Street Hospital. This post has been filled and the service will concentrate on providing follow up care to children who present following parasuicide (attempted suicide/deliberate self harm).
4. Currently a bereavement support service for our Board operates from Connolly Norman House on the North Circular Road.

Community and Voluntary Sector

1. Our Board continues to part fund 'Facing up to suicide' a five-week community education course which runs twice a year.
2. Our Board has grant aided a number of groups (one based in each of the community care areas) to acquire training to provide a listening/support service to those bereaved by suicide. These are:

Dochas, Ballymun

Dochas, Blanchardstown

Suicide Awareness Group Baldoyle (funding agreed, training to commence in September)

We have links with **Northside Counselling** in Coolock who operate a group for people bereaved by suicide.

We have links with **Fr Liam Sheridan** who facilitates two groups, one in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the North Inner City and one in Spiritan House, North Circular Road.

Barnardos provides a service to children who are bereaved and a large proportion of their caseload are children bereaved by suicide

Generic bereavement support is provided by the **Bereavement Counselling Service** in a number of centres around Dublin and they have experience in working with those bereaved by suicide.

3. A joint initiative between the NAHB and Gay HIV Strategies is underway, this project is examining the mental health needs of the gay community (an identified at-risk group for suicidal behaviour in the international literature) and to identify areas for action. (This project is co-funded by the National Suicide Review Group)
4. A one-day training session for voluntary and statutory agencies providing services to drug misusers in the North Inner City took place in April 2002.

Young People/ Youth Settings

1. A joint initiative between our Board and Trinity College Dublin to develop the capacity of the third level setting to promote mental health is underway. A project worker is employed on a half-time basis to work on this initiative. Information is also being collected from other 3rd level colleges and it is intended that the outcomes and recommendations of the project will have relevance for all colleges in Ireland. (This project is co-funded by the National Suicide Review Group).
2. Guidelines for schools on the issue of suicide were developed and launched by the President, Mary McAleese in February 2002. All secondary schools in the NAHB will have received a copy of the guidelines. The resource officer and two psychologists from the NAHB formed part of the group who drew up and engaged in the consultation process regarding the guidelines.
3. All schools in the NAHB were invited to apply for a 2-day course which would enable them to implement the 'Living with change and loss' programme. Thirty teachers (representing 15 schools) have applied to attend this course in October, 2002.
4. All schools in the NAHB have been offered the opportunity to acquire school journals for students for the coming school year. The journal provides information on adolescent emotional problems as well as supports available to them in the NAHB area. The journal was developed by teenagers in the NWHB and has been evaluated successfully.

5. Out of school settings: The National Youth Council of Ireland, in partnership with the health promotion department are offering a number of courses on health issues to youth workers in the NAHB. Two of relevance to the issue of suicide are a two day course 'healthy minds, healthy lives' and another that addresses working positively with young men.

Information and Research

1. Our Board provides two thirds of the funding for a two-year project to follow up young people aged 14-24 who have engaged in parasuicide in the North Inner City Area. This study is a joint project between the Mater Departments of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Adult Psychiatry.
2. A Directory that outlines voluntary sector services that support mental health is being finalised for publication.
3. A Parasuicide Registry is being developed on a national basis by the National Suicide Research Foundation. Earlier this year a Data Collector was appointed to the area within our Board and he has commenced collecting information on parasuicide presentation to James Connolly Memorial Hospital. The information gathered will help to inform the development of services for individuals post parasuicide in the future.

3. Cllr R Shortall

“Will the Chief Executive outline what provision there is by the Health Board for therapeutic services for persons who suffer from phobias, particularly agoraphobia and panic attacks; if these services can be extended as currently there is an over-reliance on the work of volunteers and a great shortage of places for one-to-one sessions; will she undertake to carry out a needs assessment of the adequacy of such services with a view to planning and implementing an extension of Health Board employed therapists for such persons”.

Reply

For the last 25 years the Mental Health Service in Area 7 have provided a service for people suffering from phobias such as Agoraphobia, Social Anxiety Disorder and other specific phobias.

The service is called O.A.N.D.A. (the Out-and About Association) and is based at 140 St. Lawrence's Road, Clontarf, - Phone 8338252

This service was originally set-up to service the catchment area 6 and 7 (Dublin North City), and is the only such service in the country and is managed by our Board.

The main services it provides are:-

- A phone-in service for phobia sufferers which includes sending out a self-help pack for first time callers
- A one-to-one counselling service
- Organising meetings of self-help groups in the following areas: Shankill, Drogheda, Ballyfermot, Mullingar, Kildare, Limerick, Cork, Finglas and Clontarf
- A public information forum through interviews in the media by the Nurse/Therapist
- A quarterly newsletter
- Provision of information leaflets to referrers such as G.P.'s and other Health Agencies
- In Autumn 2001 O.A.N.D.A. in co-operation with the Northern Area Health Board and St. Vincent's Hospital Fairview held a successful one-day conference entitled "The many faces of anxiety – current approaches to treatment" with Professor Isaac Marks as the Guest Speaker.

There is currently one Nurse/Therapist and an administrative assistant part-time assigned to O.A.N.D.A. The service is supported by Area 7's Clinical Director, Director of Nursing and Area Manager who make up the O.A.N.D.A. management team and meet with the Nurse Therapist at minimum every two months.

A large majority of those who suffer from anxiety attacks or phobias do not require professional therapeutic intervention, so self-help groups and telephone help-lines are an appropriate response for the majority of referrals.

At present, all those requiring a counselling may attend St. Lawrence's Road or be referred to trained staff in their own Health Board Area.

An appropriate response to address the needs of this group would be to train staff in each Health Board on dealing with the needs of this group, thus providing a local response to local needs.

A recent review of the service showed that an average of 30 phone calls are received from clients per day and that there are approximately 60 on a waiting list (Nationally) for one-to-one counselling, of which a small percentage relate to our Board's area. Referrals from our Board's area are given priority It was noted that this recent increase in calls was due in great part to the publicity gained by recent television and radio interviews

A survey carried out in the UK in 1995 found that approximately 10% of the adult population will suffer from anxiety attacks or phobias at some stage in their adult lives, of which 20% would be of such severity to require therapeutic intervention.

It is important to note that this service developed as a specific response to this problem and that, in addition, our Board, similar to other Boards, have nursing and medical staff who are trained Behavioural Psycho-Therapists and more recently Cognitive Analytical Therapists. Our Board continue to actively support staff in funding training in these areas. These staff are experienced in dealing with anxiety and phobias and provide a service within their own catchment areas.

65/2002

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT
SERVICE MATTERS**

Pension Entitlements – Progress Report

Our Board, in conjunction with Eastern Health Shared Services, is committed to ensuring that staff retiring from our Board receive their superannuation entitlements on time. Superannuation benefits are paid both to Officer grades and Non-Officer grades of staff.

- *Officer Grades*

In the case of Officer grades, documentation must be submitted to the Superannuation Section advising them that the particular individual has submitted his or her resignation on age grounds with effect from a particular date. Unless this is done in good time delays can be experienced as service records are being checked and verified to ensure correct payment. A communication has been issued to all Line Managers regarding the need for the timely submission of resignation forms. Where staff have worked in several organisations then the speed of the process is also dependent on the quality and completeness of replies to queries being received from those organisations.

A procedure has been put in place whereby once a correctly completed resignation form for a permanent Officer is received in Eastern Health Shared Services, a letter will issue to the individual concerned offering them the option of receiving an estimated pension payment on an interim basis. This letter is necessary as authorisation will be needed from the person concerned to recoup any potential overpayment which might arise when the actual calculations are completed. This procedure should ensure that staff retiring from our Board are not financially compromised and will continue to receive a payment while lump sums and pensions are being processed.

- *Non-Officer Grades*

The situation regarding Non-Officers is more complex. Pension payments in these cases can be quite small, depending on the length of service accumulated. Furthermore the determination of their service can be extremely

difficult. It is estimated that the amount of work that would be involved in these cases could be as much as that required for determining the actual calculations and it is not proposed to introduce a similar interim mechanism as set out above, which would also be subject to a greater exposure to overpayments in these cases.

- *Information and Advice*

Advice and support is available to staff, including retiring staff, from the Staff Support Services Section in Eastern Health Shared Services on request. Any retiring staff who are having difficulties of a financial nature due to inadequacies in the system will be treated sympathetically.

- *Service Review*

Superannuation is a highly complex area, requiring a considerable lead-in time for new staff to gain full proficiency, and has become more complex in recent times with additional requirements being placed on employers and new categories of eligibility being introduced. In 2000 the Personnel Officer of the former Eastern Health Board commissioned an independent Consultants report on the structure and operations of the Superannuation Unit. The Consultants reported in January 2001 and among the recommendations was an increase in staff numbers. This will require additional funding. Our Board and Eastern Health Shared Services will work closely to make improvements in this area. The matter will be kept under review at regular meetings between our Directors of Human Resources, Finance and EHSS

“Keep it or Cancel it – Don’t ignore it”

I have circulated a copy of a poster, launched on Tuesday 11th June, by the Mater Hospital and the North Inner City of Dublin Partnerships on Primary Care, in an effort to increase public awareness of the problems caused by ignoring hospital appointments.

A total of 21% of out-patients failed to keep their appointments in the Mater Hospital between 1st January and 31st May, this year. By ignoring their appointments, patients cause delays for other patients, which adds to the growing waiting lists.

A 24-hour direct telephone line has been set-up to facilitate persons wishing to cancel or re-schedule their appointment. These posters will be distributed widely, to G.P Surgeries, Health Centres, Libraries, Garda Stations, Community Centres, etc.

The matter will be kept under review.

Health Plan for the Grangegorman Site

I have circulated for members a copy of our Board’s document “Development of the Health Plan for the Grangegorman Site”.

The site will be developed in partnership with the Dublin Institute of Technology, and will have a very positive input on the regeneration of this part of the city.

PRESS RELEASES

Professional Therapy Training Places.

I have circulated with papers for this meeting, copy of press release from the Minister for Education & Science, Dr. Michael Woods, T.D. announcing the provision of an additional 175 professional therapy training places for students, to tackle the acute shortage of physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech and language therapist in the Health Services, commencing in the 2002/03 academic year.

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Following discussion, to which Cllr Burke, Cllr Murray and Cllr Devitt contributed, and to which the Chief Executive responded, the report was noted.

66/2002

Finance and Property Committee Report Report No F5/2002

On a proposal by Cllr Devitt, seconded by Cllr Burke, the report of the Finance and Property Committee (Report No F5/2002) was noted and adopted.

67/2002

Capital Projects Report No 24/2002

On a proposal by Cllr Devitt, seconded by Cllr O'Donovan, the report on Capital Projects under the National Development Plan, Report No 24/2002 was noted.

68/2002

Progress Report –Orthodontic Report Report No 25/2002

Report presented by Chief Executive. Following discussion to which Cllr Heney, Cllr Devitt and Mr McGuire contributed and to which the Chief Executive and Assistant chief Executive (operations) responded, the report was noted.

69/2002

Report on Emergency Accommodation Placement Service for Homeless Report No 26/2002

Following discussion to which Cllr Burke, Ms Harvey, Cllr Murray, Cllr Devitt and Cllr O'Brien contributed, and to which the Chief Executive responded the report was noted, and referred to the Standing Committee on Community services and Continuing Care.

70/2002

**Report – Update Draft Development Plan – St. Joseph’s Hospital, Raheny
Report No 27/2002**

The report was noted

71/2002

**Progress Report on Human Resources
Report No 28/2002**

The Report was introduced by Chief Executive and presented by Director of Human Resources. The members welcomed the report and following discussion to which Mr Fallon, Mr McGuire, Mr Tuomey, Mr Cowley and Cllr Devitt contributed, and to which the Chief Executive and Director of Human Resources responded, the Progress Report on Human Resources Report No 28/2002, was noted.

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Progress Report from Standing Committees

(i) Community Services and Continuing Care

No meeting held

(ii) Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Standing Committee

On a proposal by Mr Tuomey and seconded by Mr Fallon, the report from the Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Standing Committee was agreed. The following matters were dealt with in the report :-

1. *Matters Arising*

In relation to the Orthodontic Services Progress Report what progress has been made in relation to the advertisement of Consultants in the LAC.

Ms. Kerrigan advised that this was still on-going.

Members requested an update regarding the proposed public/private mix in the delivery of orthodontic services

2. *Report on Progress to date regarding the North Inner City Partnership in Primary Care*

Ms. Milner presented report to Members of the Committee.

Members thanked Ms. Milner for the report.

73/2002
MOTION

Motions in Deputy R Shortall's absence were not moved.

74/2002
Matters for Mention

The Chairman noted that Ms Karen Fagan, Secretariat, was transferring to Community Services, Area 6. Members thanked Ms Fagan for her co-operation with them during her time in Secretariat, and extended their best wishes to her in her new post.

The Chairman also noted that Mr Joe Fallon was leaving our Board, for membership of the South Western Area Health Board. Mr Fallon's contribution to our Board since its foundation was noted and members extended best wishes to him.

Meeting concluded at 7.00pm

M. WINDLE,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

20th June, 2002

CLLR A DEVITT
CHAIRMAN