

**Minutes of Monthly Board Meeting held in the Board Room, HQ,
Civic Centre, Bray, Co. Wicklow on Thursday 29th
January 2004 at 6.00p.m.**

In the Chair

Cllr. Tony Fox

Present

Ald. Joe Doyle
Cllr. Pat Doran
Cllr. Andrew Doyle
Cllr. Laurence Butler
Cllr. Pat Hand

Cllr. Dr. Bill O'Connell
Cllr. Louise Cosgrave
Mr. John Dolan
Dr. Bernard Murphy
Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne

Apologies

Dr. John Fennell
Dr. Ray Hawkins
Dr. Mick Molloy
Ms. Maria Hoban
Mr. Michael Murphy
Mr. Gerry McGuire
Ms. Noeleen Harvey

Officers in attendance

Mr. Martin Gallagher, Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Brian Redahan, Deputy Chief Executive.
Mr. Bob Templeton, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Services
for the Elderly, Regional Ambulance & Transport Service and
Emergency Planning Office
Mr. Gavin Maguire, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Finance &
Strategy
Ms. Mary O'Connell, Asst. Chief Executive, Primary Care,
Community Services & Acute Care
Mr. Brendan Baker, A/Assistant Chief Executive, Human
Resources and Organisational Development
Ms. Valerie Plant, A/Assistant Chief Executive, Finance and
Strategy.
Mr. Alex Connolly, Director of Communications
Mr. John Davis, Board Secretary
Ms. Naomi Boland, PA to Chief Executive Officer

Opening Prayer

1/2004

Chairman's Business

The Chairman joined with the members in extending a vote of sympathy with the relatives of the list of deceased as circulated.

As a mark of respect a minute's silence was observed.

The Chairman proceeded to advise members of the following newsworthy events:

- Launch of the Eastern Region Ambulance Service and Emergency Planning Annual Report 2002 on 15th December 2003
- Commissioning of the new Health Centre, Civic Centre, Bray, Co. Wicklow on 19th December 2003
- Lundbeck National Arts Awards 2003

The following points arising from the Chairman's Business were noted:

- Members complimented the Central Mental Hospital on winning a Centre of Excellence Award in the Lundbeck National Awards 2003. It was agreed that a letter of commendation be sent to the hospital on behalf of the Board.

Report was noted.

2/2004

Minutes

(a) Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of Monthly Board meeting held on 11th December 2003 having been circulated were adopted on proposal of Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne and seconded by Cllr. Andrew Doyle.

(b) Matters Arising

No Matters Arising.

3/2004

Questions to Chief Executive Officer

Question 1.

Cllr Jane Dillon Byrne tabled the following question

“Is it acceptable for child patients in Our Lady of Lourdes ward National Rehabilitation Hospital, Rochestown Avenue, to be placed in an adult ward at weekends due to inadequate staffing care available?”

Reply

The National Rehabilitation Hospital is funded by the Eastern Regional Health Authority under section 10 of the Health (ERHA) Act 1999. The Hospital provides rehabilitation services to both adults and children.

Traditionally the Paediatric ward provided a 5-day service for children with Spina Bifida. Over the years the patients profile has changed significantly, and currently the patients almost exclusively have an acquired brain injury. Going home at weekends is an integral part of the rehabilitation process for patients, however, the incidence has increased where it is necessary for a child to be kept in hospital at weekends due to, for example, the complexity of injuries, severity of illness, challenging behaviour, family / social circumstances, or child protection issues or unavailability of beds in other agencies/services.

In 2003, on average one (no more than two) children have been kept in the Hospital over all or part of the weekend as a result of such circumstances. Children staying in the hospital for the weekend usually stay in their own ward until approximately 8pm on Friday night, they are moved to the female adult ward to sleep on Friday night, and/or spend Saturday or Sunday in that ward. These children are accommodated in a female adult ward, of which 50% of the patients were on weekend discharge, i.e. in a 13-bedded ward there were no more than 7 patients. The ability to segregate child patients from the adult population is impeded by the ward design, as the Hospital does not have single or small segregated 2-4 bedded units. During weekends, children are cared for by nursing staff, who are members of the Paediatric Team, who care for the child on an ongoing basis.

The development of a 7-day paediatric service will require a significant investment of resources. The Board is committed to working with the Hospital and the Authority in the developing an appropriate response to the complex needs of this group of children.

Question 2.

Cllr Jane Dillon Byrne tabled the following question:

“In the matter of 24 hour care for a young girl aged 15, where this East Coast Area Health Board has employed ‘Child First’ can the CEO advise the Board, in the conditions of contract, is the company responsible for the girl when she is outside the house?”

Reply

The East Coast Area Health Board has arranged for Care First Services Ltd to provide services in connection with the child who is the subject of ongoing High Court proceedings. In that case the High Court has directed that nothing be published that would identify or tend to identify the child

in question. Public disclosure of the address or other details of the placement may infringe this direction.

In general terms when a Health Board is providing for a child in care, the Health Acts empower the Health Board to enter into arrangements with other bodies for the provision of services. In such circumstances, the Health Board's obligations regarding the child continue in full force. Hence, the statutory responsibility of the Health Board towards the child is not transferred to the service provider.

While outside the centre the company retains responsibility for the young person's safety as set out within the parameters of the contract and care plan. In practice the company implement the agreed policies and procedures consistent with the presenting behaviours of the young person.

Question 3.

Dr. Bernard Murphy tabled the following question:

“Will the Chief Executive describe the progress to date on the planning and commissioning of a new Health Board location for the provision of primary healthcare in Dundrum Town Centre? Will he indicate the size of the proposed building, its location, the services which will be delivered from this location, the estimated cost, when it is planned to be operational, how it is being funded and whether adequate funding is now in place to complete the entire project to operational level. Will he also indicate when plans for the project will be available for inspection?”

Reply

Exploratory talks have commenced with Harrington Bannon, Commercial Property Consultants on behalf of the developers of the Dundrum Town Centre development, with a view to securing adequate space to provide a comprehensive primary health care facility in the new centre. The importance of this development has been signalled by the Chairman of the Board, Mr Tony Fox.

The Board has indicated to the agents that a requirement exists for a premises of approximately 1000 sq m. to provide a range of services including Civil Registration, Community Welfare, Speech & Language Therapy, Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Child Health (Medical & Nursing), Administration, Dental Services, Environmental Health, Addiction Services, Psychiatric Services and potentially General Practice services.

The agents have indicated that they will examine the Board's requirements and present a number of potential options at various locations around the development. It is anticipated that these options will be available for consideration by March next at the latest.

The overall development is due to be completed by mid 2005.

It will not be possible to address the issue of costs until the possible location of the health centre becomes clearer. Detailed plans will be completed when the proposed location for the centre is fixed. Following the development of the plans, funding options will be explored with ERHA.

4/2004

Chief Executive Officers Report

The Chief Executive Officer's Report (copy appended to Official Minutes) was circulated. The Report dealt with the following issues:

- Hanly Report
- Drug Treatment Services
- Provider Plan Process 2004
- Winter Vomiting

There followed a debate on the Chief Executive Officers Report to which the following members contributed, Dr. Bernard Murphy, Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne, Ald. Joe Doyle, Cllr. Tony Fox, Cllr. Laurence Butler, Cllr. Dr. Bill O'Connell and Mr. John Dolan and to which the Chief Executive Officer responded.

The following key points were noted:

- Members welcomed details of the Implementation Team for our Boards area and noted that a Special Board Meeting will be held in March to specifically review the implementation of the Hanly Report. The provision of funding and costing of plans were critical to it's success.
- It was generally agreed that the Drug Treatment Services are working well in our area and contrary to reports by the media are not on the brink of collapse.

The Methadone Protocol Scheme is currently under review by the Eastern Regional Health Authority. Copy of the guidelines will be circulated to the Board Members.

- Members noted that a seven day Drug Treatment Service is under consideration in the Dun Laoghaire area and a number of pilot sites are under consideration

In conclusion it was agreed that there was a need to review the structures of the drug treatment services in our Area.

The proposal to engage the services of Michael Farrell Consultancy in this process was unanimously agreed.

- Members expressed concern in relation to the constraints on a ceiling on employment numbers during 2004 until targets are met. Protocols are in place to assess the impact on service provision.

It was noted that a programme of cost containment measures being proposed for 2004 will be framed in the context of having the least possible impact on service provision.

- It was agreed that an update on funding issues identified in our Service Plan requiring clarification from the ERHA will be brought initially to a meeting of the Finance and Property Committee scheduled for the end of February.
- Issues in relation to Clinical Waste and Water Fluoridation funding will be kept under review and members advised as appropriate.

The report was noted and agreed.

5/2004

Report of Standing Committees

On the proposal of Cllr. Andrew Doyle and seconded by Ald. Joe Doyle progress reports from the following committees were adopted.

- Development Review Committee, St. Columcilles Hospital, Loughlinstown 2nd December 2003
- Child Care Advisory Committee 4th December 2003
- Acute Services & Primary Care Committee 9th December 2003
- Finance and Property Committee 9th December 2003
- Continuing Care Committee 17th December 2003
- Acute Services & Primary Care Committee 18th December 2003

Arising from the reports the following key points were noted:

- Members approved the recommendations of the Finance and Property Committee to the acquisition of the properties at (1) The Vineyard, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow and (2) St. Josephs Site, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow.
- A presentation on the Sexual Offenders Act 2001 will be given to a future meeting of the Board.
- Correction to record the attendance of Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne at meeting of Acute Services and Primary Care Committee on 9th December 2003.
- At request of Members a list of forthcoming meetings/events/visits will be available at monthly Board Meetings.

Noted and approved.

6/2004

(a) Health Promotion Department – Physical Activity in Residential Care and Tai Chi with Older People

There followed a presentation by Ms. Siobhan Mangan, Senior Health Promotion Officer, on physical activity in residential care and tai chi with older people.

The report outlined the following issues:

- A qualitative study
- Design and methodology
- Activity levels of residents
- Challenges of client groups
- Challenges of staff
- Challenges to management
- Conclusions and recommendations.

There followed a debate on the report to which the following members contributed, Mr. John Dolan, Cllr. Andrew Doyle, Ald. Joe Doyle, Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne, Cllr. Tony Fox and Cllr. Laurence Butler.

The following key points were noted:

- The need for a national physical activity strategy to guide the promotion of physical activity amongst older adults was noted.
- The need for specific physical activity policies with each residential care unit was noted.
- A need for appropriate staff training was noted.

Members thanked Ms. Mangan for her report and noted the recommendations and benefits of physical activity for older people and complimented the Health Promotion Team on their continued work in this area.

Report was noted and agreed.

(b) Disability Federation of Ireland – Annual Report 2002 – Mr. John Dolan, Chief Executive

It was agreed to defer this item and table for February meeting.

7/2004

Notice of Motions

No motions tabled

8/2004

Correspondence

Circulated:

- Directory Health Promotion Department – December 2003
- Hanly Report – East Coast Area Health Board Implementation Team

Minutes Monthly Board Meeting, Board Room, Civic Centre, Bray – 29th January 2004

Meeting concluded at 8.30p.m.

Correct:

MARTIN GALLAGHER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

DATE

Signed:

Cllr. TONY FOX
CHAIRMAN

DATE