

**SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD****Minutes of proceedings of Inaugural Meeting of the South Western Area Health Board  
held in Kildare County Council Chambers, Naas, Co. Kildare,  
on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2000, at 2.00 p.m.***Present*

Mr. P. Aspell	Dr. S. Barry
Mr. G. Brady	Cllr. C. Byrne
Cllr. E. Byrne	Cllr. T. Cullen
Dr. M. Gueret	Dr. K. Harkin
Ms. A. Harris	Ms. M. Hoban
Cllr. C. McGrath	Cllr. M. Miley
Ald. M. Mooney	Dr. B. Murphy
Mr. M. Murphy	Cllr. C. O'Connor
Cllr. S. Ó Fearghail	Cllr. J. Reilly
Sen. T. Ridge	Cllr. D. Tipping
Cllr. J. Wall, T.D.	

*Observers*

Ms. N. Harvey	Mr. G. McGuire
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*In the Chair*

- (i) Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive
- (ii) Cllr. C. O'Connor

*Officers in Attendance*

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive  
Mr. S. O'Brien, Asst. Chief Executive  
Mr. H. Kane, General Manager, C.C.A. 3  
Mr. N. Mulvihill, General Manager, C.C.A. 4  
Mr. P. Bennett, General Manager, C.C.A. 5  
Mr. K. Ward, General Manager, C.C.A. 9  
Ms. M. Browne, Communications Director  
Mr. J. Leech, Senior Manager, Chief Executive's Office  
Ms. P. Bryan, Senior Manager, Chief Executive's Office  
Mr. R. Kavanagh, Senior Manager, Operations  
Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, Chief Executive's Office  
Ms. P. Dempsey, Administrative Support, Chief Executive's Office

At the outset, Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive, introduced himself to members and welcomed all present to the inaugural meeting of the South Western Area Health Board. Members were advised that, as this was the first meeting of the Board, it was necessary to formally establish membership and elect a Chair and Vice Chair.

### **1/2000**

#### **MEMBERSHIP OF SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD**

Report No. 1/2000 (copy filed with official minute) outlining the requirement under Section 16 of the Health (Eastern Regional Health Authority) Act, 1999 for the Eastern Regional Health Authority to appoint members to the Area Health Boards was noted by members. The following list of members included in the report as having been appointed to the South Western Area Health Board following the first meeting of the Board of the Authority was accepted as accurate:

Mr. P. Aspell	Dr. S. Barry
Mr. G. Brady	Cllr. C. Byrne
Cllr. E. Byrne	Cllr. T. Cullen
Dr. M. Gueret	Dr. K. Harkin
Ms. A. Harris	Ms. M. Hoban
Cllr. C. McGrath	Cllr. M. Miley
Ald. M. Mooney	Dr. B. Murphy
Mr. M. Murphy	Cllr. C. O'Connor
Cllr. S. Ó Fearghail	Cllr. J. Reilly
Sen. T. Ridge	Cllr. D. Tipping
Cllr. J. Wall, T.D.	

It was noted that the two members appointed as observers to the South Western Area Health Board are not included in the above list as they are members of the Northern Area Health Board.

### **2/2000**

#### **DELEGATION OF RESERVE FUNCTION FROM THE EASTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY TO THE SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD**

Report 2/2000 (copy filed with official minute) outlining the delegation of reserved functions of the Eastern Regional Health Authority to the South Western Area Health Board in accordance with the provisions of Section 9(1) of the Health (Eastern Regional Health Authority) Act, 1999 was noted by members. Those functions which remain the responsibility of the Authority were also noted.

### **3/2000**

#### **DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS FROM REGIONAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD**

Report 3/2000 (copy filed with official minute) outlining the delegation of functions from the Regional Chief Executive to the Chief Executive, South Western Area Health Board, in accordance with the provisions of Section 17(6) of the Health (Eastern Regional Health

Authority) Act, 1999 was noted by members. Specific functions which have been delegated to the Chief Executives of the Northern Area Health Board and East Coast Area Health Board respectively were also noted by members.

#### **4/2000**

##### **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Cllr. C. O'Connor was proposed by Dr. M. Gueret and seconded by Cllr. S. Ó Fearghail.

**As there were no further nominations, Cllr. C. O'Connor was declared elected as Chairperson of the Board.**

Cllr. O'Connor was congratulated by all present. On assuming the chair, Cllr. O'Connor thanked his proposer and seconder and conveyed his appreciation to all members on his election as the first Chairperson of the South Western Area Health Board. He expressed particular gratitude on being the unanimous selection of the group. In his ensuing address, he paid tribute to the members and staff of the Eastern Health Board for their hard work and dedication over the past three decades. He highlighted the following priorities for his term of office:- promotion of greater partnership between the voluntary and statutory agencies in the delivery of integrated and seamless services to the community; provision of opportunities for members to visit facilities and services across the three Area Health Board regions; examination of the specific needs of children, older people, those with mental illness, people with disabilities, drug misusers and those requiring hospital admission. In conclusion, Cllr. O'Connor congratulated the Chief Executive and Assistant Chief Executives on their recent appointments and confirmed that he is looking forward to working closely with all Board members and the Executive in the future - full text attached.

#### **5/2000**

##### **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Cllr. J. Reilly was proposed by Cllr. C. Byrne and seconded by Senator T. Ridge.

**As there were no further nominations, Cllr. J. Reilly was declared elected as Vice Chairperson of the Board.**

Cllr. Reilly thanked his proposer and seconder and stated that he was privileged to serve as Vice Chairperson. He also congratulated Cllr. O'Connor on his election as Chairperson.

The Chairperson congratulated Cllr. Reilly on his election as Vice-Chairperson.

#### **6/2000**

##### **APPOINTMENT OF PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE**

The Chief Executive advised members that, further to the establishment of a Protocol and Procedures Committee in the Eastern Regional Health Authority, each Area Health Board is also required to establish a similar committee for its region. Following brief discussion regarding the proposed composition of the committee to which Cllr. Ó Fearghail, Mr. McGuire, Cllr. Wall, T.D., and Cllr. Reilly contributed, the following was agreed:- the Chairperson to be an ex-officio member of the committee, a further six members to be

selected from the following groups – Fianna Fail (1 member), Fine Gael (1 member), Labour (1 member), Voluntary Sector (1 member), Medical Professions (1 member), Others (1 member).

The following members were nominated from the various representative groups:

**Fianna Fail – Cllr. S. Ó Fearghail** was proposed by Mr. P. Aspell and seconded by Cllr. M. Miley.

**Fine Gael – Senator T. Ridge** was proposed by Cllr. J. Wall, T.D. and seconded by Cllr. C. Byrne.

**Labour – Cllr. T. Cullen** was proposed by Cllr. J. Wall, T.D. and seconded by Cllr. M. Miley.

**Voluntary Sector – Mr. G. Brady** was proposed by Mr. M. Murphy and seconded by Mr. P. Aspell.

**Medical Professions – Dr. M. Gueret** was proposed by Dr. S. Barry and seconded by Cllr. J. Reilly.

**Others – Cllr. C. McGrath** was proposed by Dr. B. Murphy and seconded by Ms. M. Hoban.

Following the above procedure, Cllr. E. Byrne put his own name forward as Labour nominee and was seconded by Dr. M. Gueret. A member requested that the meeting be adjourned for 10 minutes to consider this.

On resuming the meeting, the Chairperson advised members that the 5 nominations, excluding the Labour group, would be adopted. The Labour group is to put forward their nomination to the committee at the next Board meeting. Cllr. J. Wall, T.D., as leader of the Labour group, will act as their representative should the Committee be required to meet prior to the next Board meeting.

**7/2000**

## **PROGRESS REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chief Executive read the following progress report to members (copy filed with official minute):

### **Report No. 4/2000**

#### **REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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### **Establishment of the Eastern Regional Health Authority**

On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2000 the Authority was formally established. In his address to the Authority Mr. Michael Martin, T.D., Minister for Health and Children, referred to the importance of the day. He said “Today is not just about the setting up of a new Authority. It’s about a fundamental change in the way healthcare is delivered”. He said that because of the increase in population 3 new Area Boards needed to be established “to bring decision-making closer to the people being served”. The Minister has set the agenda for the Authority and the Boards.

A major objective of the South Western Area Health Board will be to ensure easy access to appropriate and high quality healthcare services for people living in our area. Our task will be

to integrate those parts of the service which have become fragmented over time. At District Management level we have already begun this process of service integration by focusing our service planning and resource allocation on a defined care group structure. We will continue to build on this. We will also be required to work in real partnership with other service providers to promote the delivery of integrated care in our area.

### **HEAD OFFICE**

The temporary headquarters are located at The Leinster Mills, Osberstown, Naas. A temporary telephone line 045/872063 and fax line 045/896790 are in place. The permanent lines will be in place in two weeks time. Each member will be advised in writing of the new telephone numbers as soon as they are installed.

Ms. Brid Clarke and Mr. Seamus O'Brien have been appointed Assistant Chief Executives. A third Assistant Chief Executive will be appointed shortly.

Ms. Clarke has delegated responsibility for all Community and Continuing Care Services within the functional area of the South Western Area Health Board. This includes Child Care Services, Mental Health, Disability Services, Services for the Elderly and Primary Care. Ms. Clarke also has responsibility for Child Care Services that will continue to operate on a Regional basis including Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Services, Inter Country Adoption and Special Care/High Support Units.

Mr. Seamus O'Brien has delegated responsibility for the following services and functions; Acute Hospital Services and Orthodontic Services in the South Western Area Health Board; Capital development programme for Orthodontic Services for the region; all capital development projects in the South Western Area Health Board; Engineering and maintenance services for the South Western Area Health Board; Refurbishment and equipping programmes; Transitionary and realignment programme. Mr. O'Brien will also have additional regional duties: Management of the Ambulance Service; Management of the Capital Projects at St. Columcille's, Loughlinstown and James Connolly Memorial Hospital. Delegation of functions to the Chief Executives of the Northern and East Coast Area Boards take account of these arrangements.

The Headquarters is currently manned by 3 Senior Managers Ms. Pauline Bryan, Mr. John Leech and Mr. Ray Kavanagh and 3 administrative support staff – Ms. Annette Farrell, Ms. Peggy Dempsey and Ms. Antoinette Barry.

At this stage I feel it is important that I as Chief Executive pay tribute to and record my appreciation of the co-operation and commitment shown by the staff of the former Eastern Health Board in accommodating the transition to the new Area Health Board. It is also important to record an acknowledgement of the achievements of the Eastern Health Board over the past 30 years. It is our duty now to build on these achievements.

### **DISTRICT MANAGEMENT**

There are 4 General Managers in the SWAHB with responsibility for delivery of Community Services at local district level:

Mr. Hugh Kane	CCA3	Community Services Office, Carnegie Centre, Lord Edward St., Dublin 2. Tel. 01/6792611
Mr. Noel Mulvihill	CCA4	Community Services Office, Old County Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12. Tel. 01/4542511
Mr. Pat Bennett	CCA5	Community Services Office, Cherry Orchard Hosp. Ballyfermot, Dublin 10. Tel. 01/6268101
Mr. Kevin Ward	CCA9	Community Services Office, Poplar House, Naas, Co. Kildare. Tel. 045/876001

A detailed report on transitional arrangements will be brought to the Standing Committees as soon as possible. Every effort has been made at this time to ensure all services are continued in the normal way.

### **ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISITS TO SERVICES**

Members of the South Western Area Health Board will need the opportunity to view and discuss services in both their own area and across the region. As members of the three Area Boards are also members of the Authority, it is necessary to combine local decision making and operational developments with the need to reflect on service provision across the region. Therefore the Chief Executives of the three Area Boards have co-operated in the preparation of a proposed visiting schedule for members for the next four months. (The schedule is attached to the CEO's Report).

These visits will include an opportunity for members to hear a presentation on the particular service, to have a tour of the premises and a viewing of facilities, and a general discussion with staff and management of the particular service, agency or organisation.

The Boards are grateful to voluntary providers who have readily participated in the preparation of this schedule and who have shown their commitment to the success of these arrangements.

### **SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS**

It is my intention to bring a detailed report on service developments in the Area to the Board every month. Detailed service development reports will be given at future Standing Committees.

The Senior Management is presently drafting a 7 year Capital Development Programme for the South Western Area Health Board and this will be brought to the Board's Standing Committees in due course.

### **Naas General Hospital**

Prior to the main contractor taking ownership of the hospital site, extensive enabling works were undertaken in preparation for the development of the new hospital. Part of the enabling works included the transfer of some hospital services into temporary accommodation. The services relocated include the Accident & Emergency Department and the Day Hospital for Older Persons.

Construction of the new Naas General Hospital commenced at the end of November 1999 when the main contractor took possession of the hospital site and work is progressing on target. All vacated hospital buildings have been demolished and the pouring of concrete for foundations and basement slabs is in progress.

Since the contractor took possession of the hospital site there have been some car-parking difficulties at the hospital. In an effort to resolve the difficulties being experienced by visitors and staff at the hospital the following measures have been taken:-

- The provision of 50 – 60 additional car parking spaces at the rear of the Kildare County Council offices. Construction has commenced and the car park is targeted to be operational by end March 2000.
- A further 75 spaces have been made available to the hospital in the grounds of the Church of Irish Martyrs, Ballycane. A shuttle service is operating throughout the day between the Church car park and the hospital.
- A publicity campaign has been organised by the Hospital Management both within the hospital and in the local media regarding the parking arrangements at the hospital.
- Extra signage has been positioned along the hospital boundary to advertise the parking that is available and to discourage inappropriate parking.
- The project Manager for the hospital development has had meetings with the Naas Urban District Council and the local residents to advise them of action taken in our efforts to resolve the parking difficulties for the vicinity of the hospital.

The project remains on target for completion of the project end year 2001.

### **Meath Hospital**

Purchase of the property has been completed. A Working Group is being set up to identify the refurbishment costs of the buildings and progress the planned service developments.

### **St. Loman's Hospital**

A Development Control Plan for the hospital site has been completed. A Project Team is being established to progress the implementation of the Plan. A more detailed report on the hospital's Development Control Plan will be presented to the Board at a later date.

In response to various queries raised by members the Chief Executive provided the following clarification:

- The schedule of visits drawn up for members reflects the necessity to establish a work programme. Initially, the majority of visits have been arranged to Health Board facilities, however, visits to voluntary groups and hospitals will be included at time progresses.
- Clarification was provided on Ms Brid Clarke's, Asst. Chief Executive, delegation vis a vis the provision of dental services. These services are encompassed by the term "primary care" which also includes general practice and pharmacy services.
- A Child Care Advisory Committee will be established for which nominations from voluntary organisations will be sought.
- A Learning Disability Committee will be established which will include representation from parents.
- It was agreed to provide Board members with a list of pre-school facilities and nursing homes in our Board's area.
- Arrangements regarding the submission of questions and motions for future Board meetings will be a matter for the Protocol and Procedures Committee.
- Under the Health (Eastern Regional Health Authority) Act, 1999 there is a statutory obligation on the Chief Executives of the three Area Health Boards to co-operate and collaborate with each other.
- Members were advised that a third Assistant Chief Executive will be appointed in the near future.

The Chief Executive's report was noted by members.

**8/2000**

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chairperson suggested to members that future Board meetings be held on the second Tuesday of the month in the afternoon. Members advised that this date coincided with other meetings which they were required to attend. Following various alternative suggestions, it was agreed to defer this matter. Members will be advised of the selected day/time in due course.

**The meeting concluded at 15.45 p.m.**

**CORRECT:**

**P. DONNELLY  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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**CHAIRMAN**