SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of proceedings of meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held in the Council Chambers, Kildare County Council, Naas, Co Kildare, on Tuesday, 7th November, 2000, at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Mr. P. Aspell
Mr. G. Brady
Cllr. E. Byrne
Dr. M. Gueret
Ms. M. Hoban
Cllr. C. McGrath
Ald. M. Mooney
Cllr. C. O’Connor
Sen. T. Ridge

Cllr. D. Tipping
Cllr. C. Byrne
Cllr. T. Cullen
Ms. A. Harris
Dr. K. Harkin
Cllr. M. Miley
Dr. B. Murphy
Cllr. J. Reilly
Cllr. J. Wall, T.D.

Observers

Mr. G. McGuire
Ms. N. Harvey

Apology

Sen. S. Ó Fearghail
Dr. S. Barry

Mr. M. Murphy

In the Chair

Cllr. C. O’Connor

Officers in Attendance

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive
Mr. S. O’Brien, Asst. Chief Executive
Ms. B Clarke, Asst. Chief Executive
Mr. P. Bennett, Asst. Chief Executive
Mr. H. Kane, Asst. Chief Executive
Mr. D. Lyons, Director of Finance
Ms. P. Bryan, Senior Manager, Chief Executive’s Office
Mr. R. Kavanagh, Senior Manager, Operations
Mr. R. Healy, Manager, Chief Executive’s Office
Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, Chief Executive’s Office
Ms. P. Dempsey, Administrative Support, Chief Executive’s Office
85/2000
CHAIRMAN’S BUSINESS

The Chairman extended sympathy to those whose names were included on the list of condolences which had been circulated to members.

The Chairman advised members of the following:-

- the December Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12th December, 2000 at 6.30 p.m. in the Red House Country Hotel
- the venue for the Primary Care and Acute Services Standing Committee on 16th November, 2000 had changed to the Red House Country Hotel.

In addition, the Chairman stated that our Board’s nominations to the Executive of the Association of Health Boards in Ireland have not been finalised and that he would be consulting members after the meeting in this regard.

In response to issues raised by members under Chairman’s Business, the Chief Executive stated that:-

- Members will be updated on arrangements for the processing of medical cards in the Kildare area.
- Difficulties exist with regard to day facilities for families vacating hostels and B&B accommodation and this issue will be further examined.
- The forthcoming transfer of the administration of West Wicklow to the Community Services office in Naas is welcomed.
- Ms. B. Clarke, Assistant Chief Executive, informed members that a supply of flu vaccines has been received recently and a further delivery is expected at the end of the month.

86/2000
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 3rd OCTOBER, 2000

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 3rd October, 2000, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy.

(a) Matters arising from the minutes

In response to query from Mr. G. Brady, the Chief Executive stated that a report on the monitoring of the Meningococcal C Vaccination Programme will be brought to a future Standing Committee meeting.

87/2000
REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive read Report No. 30/2000 to members (copy filed with official minute):
Areas covered in the report are set out below:

1. Effects of Weather Conditions
2. National Winter Initiative
3. Consultant Manpower
4. Orthodontic Services
5. National Development Plan
6. Once-off Grants for Aids and Appliances for People with Physical and Sensory Disabilities
7. Compensation for Survivors of Institutional Abuse
8. Circular on the National Fuel Scheme
9. Social Services Inspectorate Report
11. Industrial Dispute involving Clerical/Administrative Staff
12. Rehab Group

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Winter Initiative
Following a query from Cllr. E. Byrne, the Chief Executive stated that the immediate employment of consultants under the Winter Initiative would be achieved through employment on a locum basis pending permanent appointments.

Consultant Manpower
Members welcomed approval for the appointment of additional consultants to Naas General Hospital. In response to a query from Cllr. E. Byrne, Mr Séamus O’Brien, Assistant Chief Executive, stated that joint appointments facilitate the development of linkages between Naas General Hospital and AMiNCH, Tallaght.

Orthodontics
In response to a query from Cllr. T. Ridge the Chief Executive stated that our Board is actively pursuing the use of private orthodontists within the service.

National Children’s Strategy and Violence on Television/Computer Games
Following a discussion to which Cllr. J. Wall, Cllr. J. Reilly and Cllr. E. Byrne contributed, the Chief Executive stated that available research on the subject of children’s exposure to violence will be brought to a future Standing Committee meeting.

Effects of Weather Conditions
Mr. Gerry McGuire expressed appreciation to staff who assisted clients who experienced difficulties as a result of the effects of the recent bad weather.

Rialto Gate, St. James’s Hospital
Members expressed dissatisfaction at the closure by St. James’s Hospital of the Rialto Gate entrance.
**Recent Newspaper Article re Persons with Disabilities**

In response to a query from Cllr. E. Byrne, the Chief Executive stated that the Chief Executives nationally are responding to the recent article in the Sunday regarding persons with disabilities. The issue of recruitment advertising in national newspapers in general is currently being examined.

88/2000

**RE: GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES (PAYMENTS) BOARD REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1999**

Ms Bríd Clarke, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations), made a presentation to members on the General Medical Services (Payments) Board Report for the year ended 31st December, 1999 [copy filed with official minute].

Members thanked Ms Clarke for her presentation. Discussion ensued to which Cllr. C. McGrath, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. J. Reilly and Ms. N. Harvey contributed at which the following issues were raised and to which Ms Clarke responded:

- Comparison between the cost of branded versus non-branded drugs.
- Comparison between GMS costs in Ireland versus similar schemes in Europe.
- Issues regarding the prescribing of benzodiazepines.
- Payments to GMS doctors under the indicative drug savings scheme.
- Future appointment of a community pharmacist to the South Western Area Health Board.

Members complimented those providing services within the General Medical Services Scheme.

Ms. Clarke concluded by stating that further information on the General Medical Services will be provided at a future Standing Committee meeting.

89/2000

**RE: DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES FOR SYMPTOMATIC BREAST DISEASE**

Mr John Reynolds, Regional Director for Cancer Services, South Western Area Health Board, made a presentation to the Board on the Development of Services for Symptomatic Breast Disease [copy filed with official minute].

Members welcomed the presentation by Mr Reynolds and expressed support for the various issues outlined therein. A lengthy discussion took place to which the following members contributed - Cllr. C. McGrath, Dr. M. Gueret, Cllr. C. O’Connor and Cllr. E. Byrne.

The following issues were raised in the discussion:-

- The importance of patient education/information and raising public awareness of breast cancer was emphasised. In this regard, the development of linkages between primary and secondary care for this purpose was highlighted.
• The need for the establishment of two purpose-built specialist breast units in the South West area (St James’s Hospital and AMiNCH, Tallaght) with specific core/essential personnel was discussed. Mr Reynolds emphasised the need for the establishment of sufficient units to cater for the population size of the catchment area.

• In conclusion, the Chief Executive confirmed the full support of the Executive of the South Western Area Health Board for the issues raised by Mr Reynolds and indicated that our Board will support the implementation of all the recommendations of the recent report on this service.

It was agreed that Mr. Reynolds would address a future meeting on the provision of other cancer services.

90/2000
RE: THE NATIONAL HEALTH PROMOTION STRATEGY 2000-2005

Deferred to a future Board Meeting.

91/2000
PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

On a proposal by Mr. P. Aspell, seconded by Cllr J. Reilly, the progress reports from the following Standing Committees were adopted:

- Primary Care and Acute Services
- Community Services and Continuing Care
- Joint Standing Committee

92/2000
PROGRESS REPORT ON PROTOCOL & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

On a proposal by Cllr. C. McGrath, seconded by Mr. P. Aspell, the Progress Report from the Protocol and Procedures Committee was adopted.

93/2000
CORRESPONDENCE

Items of correspondence, as referred to in the Chief Executive’s Report, were noted.

94/2000
SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS (NOVEMBER 2000)

The schedule of visits for Board Members and Committee Meetings for November 2000 which was circulated with the agenda papers was noted by members.
95/2000
DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12th December, 2000, at 6.30 p.m. in the Red House Country Hotel, Newbridge Road, Naas, Co Kildare.

The meeting concluded at 4.30 p.m.

CORRECT: P. DONNELLY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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CHAIRMAN