

SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of the proceedings of meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held in
Baltinglass District Hospital, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow, on Tuesday, 1st May, 2001, at
6.00 p.m.**

Present

Mr. P. Aspell
Cllr. C. Byrne
Ms. A. Harris
Cllr. C. McGrath
Ms. M. Mooney
Cllr. C. O'Connor
Sen. T. Ridge

Dr. S. Barry
Cllr. E. Byrne
Ms. M. Hoban
Cllr. M. Miley
Dr. B. Murphy
Cllr. J. Reilly

Observers

Mr. G. McGuire

Apologies

Cllr. T. Cullen
Dr. K. Harkin

Dr. M. Gueret
Ms. N. Harvey

In the Chair

Cllr. C. O'Connor

Officers in Attendance

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive
Ms. B. Clarke, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. H. Kane, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. D. Lyons, Director of Finance
Mr. R. Mitchell, Director of Communications
Mr. K. Ward, General Manager, Kildare/West Wicklow
Ms. A. Walsh, Primary Care Manager
Mr. R. Kavanagh, Senior Manager, Operations
Ms. C. Cuffe, Senior Manager, Operations
Mr. R. Healy, A/Senior Manager, Chief Executive's Office
Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, Chief Executive's Office
Ms. P. Dempsey, Administrative Support, Chief Executive's Office

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CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

The Chairman advised members of the following:-

1. *Condolences*

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

I am sure all members will also join with me in expressing our condolences to the family of the former Deputy Godfrey Timmins who passed away recently (R.I.P.). Godfrey represented Wicklow in Dáil Éireann and was also member of the former Eastern Health Board.

As a mark of respect I intend to adjourn the Business of today's meeting for five minutes.

Following the five minute adjournment the Chairman proceeded with the following further announcements:-

2. *Review of Board Progress*

Having had a discussion with the Vice-Chairman and the Chief Executive, we are proposing to hold a half-day workshop for members now that the Board is one year old - a review of progress to date. As this is a very important piece of work for the Board it is essential that all members would attend.

I am, therefore, asking members to leave 29th May, 2001, from 9.30 a.m to 1.00 p.m. free in their diaries. The venue has yet to be confirmed, however, details will be forwarded to you in advance of the workshop along with a programme for the morning.

3. *Joint Standing Committee*

The Progress Report for the Joint Standing Committee meeting held last Thursday, 26th April, 2001 has been circulated with the Chief Executive's Report. This report was not forwarded to you in advance of this meeting as the deadline for posting Board documentation is the Wednesday preceding the Board Meeting.

4. *Change of Meeting Venue*

I wish to inform members that the venue for the Primary Care and Acute Services Standing Committee meeting to be held on Thursday, 17th May, 2001, has been changed to St Brigid's Home, Crooksling. This meeting will be held at the usual time of 11.00 a.m. Members will be notified in writing of the amended details.

5. *Service Visits for Board Members*

I would like members to note that the visit arranged by the East Coast Area Health Board to Ardee Cheshire Home, Shillelagh, will take place on 15th May, 2001, and the visit to the Los Angeles Society, Dalkey, will take place on 22nd May, 2001. This is a slight amendment to the schedule as notified in the Board papers.

6. Order of Business

If it is acceptable to members I would like to change one item on the order of business, and take the K Doc presentation as item 4 on the Agenda.

This was agreed.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETINGS HELD ON 28th MARCH, 2001 & 3rd APRIL, 2001

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 28th March, 2001, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy.

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 3rd April, 2001, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Ms. M. Hoban.

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QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Cllr. C. McGrath, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

1. Deputy Jack Wall, T.D.

“To ask the Chief Executive if he is aware of the present unsatisfactory location of the Maynooth Ambulance Station, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, given the narrowness of the road to same and the volume of traffic and parking on same, if he is aware of commitments given to staff in relation to its relocation, and if he will now advise of the present status with the plans for relocation.”

Reply:

The Eastern Region Ambulance Service provides Emergency Ambulance and Patient Transport services for the three Area Health Boards. The Ambulance Service has its statutory reporting relationship to the East Coast Area Health Board.

Maynooth Ambulance Station was opened in 1981 to provide Emergency Ambulance pre-hospital care for the population of North County Kildare. The Ambulance Station is part of the Health Centre in Maynooth and this arrangement has proved satisfactory to date. As you are aware, considerable new infrastructural developments have taken place in the Kildare area in roads, housing and industrial terms, but particularly in the North Kildare area. The Ambulance Staff complement in Maynooth Ambulance Station was increased in 1998 by 2 to cater for the increased call volume activity.

The Chief Ambulance Officer advises me that no difficulty has been encountered by the Ambulance Service in responding to emergency Ambulance calls from Maynooth Ambulance Station, however, it is acknowledged that Maynooth has become somewhat more congested. The Ambulance Service is currently looking at options in the Maynooth area for the possible re-location of its base from the Health Centre to a

less congested area. To this end the Chief Ambulance Officer has had discussions with the Chief Fire Officer in Kildare who is also seeking to re-locate the Fire Station in the Maynooth area.

The Chief Ambulance Officer also advises that all new developments in the Ambulance Service are fully discussed with appropriate staff at all stages of development and he assures me that this will also take place with the Maynooth Ambulance Staff. Currently the re-location of the Maynooth Ambulance Station is only at an option appraisal stage and, therefore, only preliminary discussions have taken place with the staff.

2. Cllr. Eric Byrne

“Will the Chief Executive agree to liaise with Dublin Corporation as the appropriate Local Authority who administer the “Grant Scheme for People with Disabilities” to assist my elderly constituents (details supplied) who do not have the resources to engage Architects to prepare drawings. These drawings are a pre-requisite for accessing the grants?”

Will he also agree to work with the Local Authority Managers to speed to up the Occupational Therapist Service, which is also required, before work can commence and will he make a statement on this issue?”

Reply:

At the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee meeting held on the 12th April, 2001, members agreed that officers of the Board should meet with officers of the Local Authorities to discuss how best we can co-ordinate the various grant schemes, including the grant scheme for people with disabilities, to ensure an effective and efficient service is provided to the public.

Members will be aware of the ongoing difficulties experienced by our Board and other health boards in recruiting health professionals, including occupational therapists. Various initiatives are being considered, both at wider level and local level, to recruit and retain staff. While we have had success in filling some occupational therapist vacancies, it has proved difficult to fill all existing vacancies.

52/2001

RE: PRESENTATION ON “PREPARING FOR THE EURO CHANGEOVER”

Mr. Declan Lyons, Director of Finance, gave a presentation to members outlining the principal aspects of the Board’s preparations for the changeover to the Euro currency in January 2002.

A brief discussion followed to which Cllr. J. Reilly contributed and to which Mr Lyons responded as follows:-

Costings: Mr Lyons confirmed that costings to the three Area Health Boards related to the Euro changeover are currently being compiled and a submission to the Department of Health & Children regarding recoupment of these costs is also being prepared.

Members thanked Mr Lyons for his presentation.

53/2001

RE: PRESENTATION RE K DOC INITIATIVE

This was taken as Item No. 4 on the Agenda

At the outset, Ms. Bríd Clarke, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations), introduced the following general practitioners participating in the K Doc Initiative who were in attendance:- Dr. Michael Joyce, Dr. Barry Boland, Dr. F.X. Flanagan, and Dr. Anthony Reeves.

The Chief Executive outlined briefly the various discussions which had been held with members to date regarding this initiative and highlighted the significance of these developments in the context of the overall strategy for the development of primary care in our Board's area. In this regard, he indicated that a Joint Standing Committee meeting will be held in June to discuss Primary Care.

Dr. Michael Joyce, G.P., then gave a slide presentation to members outlining the various aspects of the K Doc Initiative.

A wide-ranging discussion followed to which Dr. S. Barry, Cllr. M. Miley, Cllr. C. McGrath, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. J. Reilly, Mr. P. Aspell, Sen. T. Ridge, Ms. M. Hoban and Mr. G. McGuire contributed.

The following are the main issues raised:-

- Members enquired regarding the adequacy of the number of participating general practitioners vis à vis the geographical area which they will be required to cover.
- The issue of value for money, in terms of return for patients and health board alike, arising out of the Board's investment in this initiative, was raised.
- Concern was expressed regarding how this initiative will cater for patients/families with low income but not entitled to a medical card.
- Members enquired regarding the differentiation between our Board's responsibilities, obligations and control of assets/liabilities and those of the participating general practitioners.
- The issue of follow up information being given to patients' own general practitioners was raised and clarified.
- Referrals to acute hospitals from this service were discussed.
- Members welcomed the presence of the Manager of KDoc, Mr. Ken Bailey, at the meeting.
- Members were informed that an audit of the service is currently being carried out and that members will be notified of the outcome of same as soon as it is available.

Dr. Joyce, on behalf of the KDoc Initiative, responded to the issues raised. The incoming Chairman of KDoc, Dr. Barry Boland, was also introduced to members and he provided further clarification/information on a number of the issues raised.

Following the presentation the Chairman thanked the general practitioners for their input. The Chief Executive and the Assistant Chief Executive (Operations) then provided clarification on some further queries raised by members.

In conclusion, members indicated general support for the KDoc initiative and will await the outcome of the audit/patient satisfaction survey.

54/2001**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

The Chief Executive read Report No. 7/2001 to members (copy filed with official minute):

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

1. X-Ray Facilities – Baltinglass & Athy Hospitals
2. Queen Mary Building
3. Annual Financial Statements
4. New Health Strategy
5. Breast Check
6. Forum on Fluoridation
7. Mental Health Services Area 4 & 5

Discussion ensued at which the following issues were raised:-

- Breast Check: Members welcomed the Chief Executive's proposal to invite a leading clinician from Breast Check to address members at a future Board Meeting. Cllr. J. Reilly highlighted a recent radio programme which cited an increased incidence of prostatic cancer and requested that this issue be discussed at a future meeting.
- Mental Health Services Area 4 & 5: Dr. S. Barry requested that the issue of the provision of services by the Tallaght Hospital Psychiatric Services to patients on Methadone be pursued.
- Queen Mary Building: Dr. B. Murphy thanked the Chief Executive, Mr. H. Kane and Mr. R. Kavanagh for their efforts to ensure a resolution of this issue.
- Members asked that their good wishes be passed on to Dr. Dermot Walsh on his retirement and paid tribute to him for his good work in the past.

Ms. Bríd Clarke, Assistant Chief Executive (Operations), advised members that steps towards selecting a permanent replacement for Dr. Dermot Walsh (recently retired) are well advanced.

Ms. Clarke informed members that the South Western Area Health Board has received approval for the appointment of psychologists for Area 4/5 Mental Health area which includes Tallaght.

The Chief Executive's report was noted.

55/2001**MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters for mention or matters arising from the minutes.

56/2001**PROGRESS REPORT FROM COMMUNITY SERVICES AND CONTINUING CARE STANDING COMMITTEE**

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy, the progress report from the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee was adopted.

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Cllr. E. Byrne, the progress report from the Primary Care and Acute Services Standing Committee was adopted.

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Ms. A. Harris, the progress report from the Joint Standing Committee which was circulated at the meeting was adopted.

57/2001

NOTICES OF MOTION

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. E. Byrne, and seconded by Dr. B. Murphy:

“As the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) has announced plans to spend £100m. for the regeneration of Fatima Mansions and it’s environs, this Board agrees that the primary health care needs of this area be developed and the necessary funding be drawn down to provide a centre of excellence within the designated area.”.

Discussion followed to which Cllr. E. Byrne, Ald. M. Mooney, Dr. S. Barry and Ms. M. Hoban contributed. In response, the Chief Executive outlined a study which has been carried out recently by U.C.D., in conjunction with the residents of Fatima Mansions, regarding their health needs. A report will be drawn up based on the findings of this study following which this issue may be discussed in more detail.

Members agreed to note the motion. This matter is to be discussed further in approximately three months time.

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CORRESPONDENCE

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

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SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS (MAY 2001)

The schedule of visits for Board Members and Standing Committee meetings for May 2001 which was circulated with the agenda papers was noted by members.

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DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 5th June, 2001, at 2.00 p.m. in the Board Room, Dr. Steevens’ Hospital.

The meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.

CORRECT:

**P. DONNELLY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

CHAIRMAN