

SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of the proceedings of the special meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held, in committee, in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, on Thursday, 29th November, 2001, at 6.30 p.m.

Present

Mr. P. Aspell
Mr. G. Brady
Cllr. T. Cullen
Cllr. C. McGrath
Ald. M. Mooney
Sen. S. Ó Fearghail
Cllr. D. Tipping

Dr. S. Barry
Cllr. E. Byrne
Ms. M. Hoban
Cllr. M. Miley
Cllr. C. O'Connor
Cllr. J. Reilly

Apologies

Ms. N. Harvey
Dr. B. Murphy

Mr. G. McGuire
Sen. T. Ridge

In the Chair

Cllr. C. O'Connor

Officers in Attendance

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. S. O'Brien, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. D. Lyons, Director of Finance
Mr. T. McMahon, Director of Human Resources
Mr. R. Mitchell, Director of Communications
Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, CEO's Office

At the outset, the C.E.O. gave apologies from the Vice-Chairman and informed members that Cllr. C. O'Connor, Chairman, was unavoidably delayed. It was proposed by Cllr. T. Cullen, and agreed by members, that Cllr. J. Reilly should chair the meeting until the Chairman arrived.

At this point, Cllr. T. Cullen expressed appreciation to the C.E.O. for his assistance following the recent illegal dumping situation in the Wicklow area.

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NATIONAL HEALTH STRATEGY

The C.E.O. gave an overview of the new National Health Strategy, incorporating a slide presentation, to members. The main areas outlined in the presentation included:-

- Guiding Principles
- Statistical Information on Population and Health Trends
- Key Messages
- National Goals
- Information on specific care groups
- Frameworks for Change
- Proposals for the Development of Primary Care
- Implementation
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Summary of overall vision of the Strategy

In introducing the presentation, the C.E.O. requested that members give consideration to the strategy in the context of its implications and specific relevance to the South Western Area Health Board. He highlighted some of the key themes of the strategy – people-centredness, fair access, responsive and appropriate care, high performance, human resource issues – and outlined the challenges and opportunities that they present to our Board in shaping future service delivery in the light of the ongoing major increase in the population of our catchment area.

The Chairman, Cllr. O'Connor, thanked the C.E.O. on behalf of the members for his presentation. Discussion followed to which Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. D. Tipping, Dr. S. Barry, Ms. M. Hoban, Cllr. C. McGrath and Mr. G. Brady contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded as follows:-

- Members were informed that a wide consultative process was employed in drawing up the strategy. Recent feedback suggests that various elements of the submissions received are contained within the strategy document. Copies of all submissions made are to be published shortly.
- The effect of a changing economic climate on the ongoing availability of future resources was highlighted. The importance of targeting available expenditure at identified priorities was stressed.
- Members were advised that a presentation on the Primary Care strategy document will be given at the January 2002 Board Meeting.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the C.E.O. for his presentation which members noted.

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NOMINATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HEALTH BOARDS

The Chairman informed members that it was proposed that Cllr. Tommy Cullen and Cllr. Colm McGrath would now replace the current two members who represent the South Western Area Health Board on the Executive of the Association of Health Boards in Ireland, for a one year period.

Members agreed with the above nominations.

CORRECT: P. DONNELLY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CHAIRMAN