

SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held
in the Saggart Room, Citywest Hotel, Saggart, Co. Dublin
on Tuesday, 9th December, 2003, at 6.00 p.m.**

Present

Mr. P. Aspell	Dr. S. Barry
Mr. G. Brady	Cllr. E. Byrne
Cllr. T. Cullen	Cllr. J. Daly
Ms. A. Harris	Ms. M. Hoban
Cllr. A. Kane	Cllr. C. McGrath
Ald. M. Mooney	Cllr. J. Reilly
Cllr. T. Ridge	Cllr. D. Tipping

In the Chair

Ald. M. Mooney

Apologies

Cllr. C. Byrne	Dr. M. Gueret
Dr. K. Harkin	Ms. N. Harvey
Cllr. G. McGuire	Cllr. M. Miley
Dr. B. Murphy	Cllr. F. O'Loughlin

Officers in Attendance

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer
 Mr. H. Kane, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
 Mr. R. Mitchell, Assistant Chief Executive
 Ms. R. Buckley, Assistant Chief Executive
 Mr. M. Rogan, Assistant Chief Executive
 Mr. D. Lyons, Director of Finance
 Ms. M. Gorry, A/Director of Human Resources
 Mr. D. Delaney, Director of Communications
 Ms. M. Clear, Director of Services for Children & Families
 Mr. G. O'Neill, A/Director for Mental Health & Addiction Services
 Ms. C. Bergin, Senior Manager, Operations
 Mr. K. Cleary, Senior Manager, Operations
 Mr. R. Healy, Board Secretary
 Ms. P. McDonagh, Communications Officer
 Ms. F. Cronin, Child Care Information Officer
 Ms. P. Dempsey, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office
 Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office

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CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

Members were invited to join with the Chairman in standing for a minute's silence to express sincere sympathy to those whose names were included on the list of condolences. The Chairman informed members of the death of Cllr. Gerry McGuire's father (R.I.P.) and the preliminary arrangements regarding the funeral. The meeting was then adjourned for 5 minutes as a mark of respect.

On resuming the meeting, the Chairman advised members of the following:-

1. *February Board Meeting*

Following consultation with the C.E.O., I would like to propose to members that we hold the February Meeting of the Board in St. Luke's Hospital, Rathgar, on 3rd February, 2004. I have asked the C.E.O. to discuss the matter with the C.E.O. of the hospital and make the necessary arrangements.

2. *Association of Health Boards*

I would like to bring to the attention of members, preliminary notification that the Association of Health Boards in Ireland will be holding its annual conference in the Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore, on 26th and 27th March, 2004. The complete conference programme and registration forms will be circulated to all members when available.

3. *Seasons Greetings*

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish board members and staff a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 4TH NOVEMBER, 2003

The minutes of the proceedings of the Board Meeting held on 4th November, 2003, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Ms. M. Hoban, seconded by Ms. A. Harris.

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QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On a proposal by Cllr. T. Ridge, seconded by Ms. M. Hoban, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

1. *Dr. Siobhán Barry*

“Re: Proposed 3-5 year Action Plan for Mental Health in the South Western Area Health Board brought to the Board (4th December 2001), could the C.E.O. update the Board on the:-

- Amount secured, to date, of the total capital & revenue resources of 70.38 million Euro (IR£48.24million) vital to this plan?

- Implementation of the proposed actions detailed at that time to redress the current position?"

Reply:

The South Western Area Health Board has received no additional capital allocation from E.R.H.A. since the December 2001 report was adopted by the South Western Area Health Board. However, a number of facilities have been improved and replaced by utilising existing resources and through a programme of select disposals.

The Advance Building at St. Loman's was funded from South Western Area Health Board resources, as the existing facility at Unit F was unsuitable as a psychosocial rehabilitation unit and was demolished to facilitate the redevelopment of the St. Loman's site. This unit cost €3m to build and commission - this expenditure will be recouped from the proceeds of St. Lomans' land sale.

Day Centre at St. Brigid's in Clondalkin - Additional revenue expenditure was required to upgrade the Day Centre service at Clondalkin. Moving from unsuitable rented premises at the Scouts Den in October 2002 – cost of €84,000.

A New Day Hospital, Day Centre, Psychiatry of Old Age Day Hospital & Sector H.Q. at Tallaght (Exchange Building) was secured and commissioned in collaboration with the Addiction Services in Tallaght. The sale of two Addiction Services properties (514 & 515 Main St., Tallaght) funded this development and created a new facility for addiction services in Tallaght.

The refurbishment of St. Martha's Day Hospital in Kilmainham was funded by the sale of Cooligmartin House. The Board had been unsuccessful in gaining 'change of use' planning for Cooligmartin House at Newcastle.

The South Western Area Health Board disposed of Auburn House in Kilcock and the proceeds will be reinvested in the provision of a Day Hospital for the North West Kildare sector at Whitestown, Kilcock. This new facility should become available in Spring 2004.

Phoenix Clubhouse in Clondalkin was acquired by EVE Holdings Ltd. utilising capitation disability grants.

The South Western Area Health Board has ensured that all clients requiring social housing have been listed and prioritised for housing with Dublin City Council. A similar exercise is underway with the other relevant Local Authorities.

The Board has grant aided HAIL (Housing Association for Integrated Living) who provide a range of Social & Supported Housing initiatives in the region. Major HAIL developments in the South Western Area Health Board include Kilcronan in Clondalkin, Russell Square, Tallaght and a development at Tús Nua in Kildare (in planning). A site at Grove House in Celbridge has been ceded to Celbridge Mental Health Association to develop 12 housing units for mental health service users. These developments are funded by the Department of the Environment.

The proposal to sell lands at St. Loman's has been approved by the South Western Area Health Board Finance & Property Committee and endorsed by the South Western Area Health Board. This proposal is now with E.R.H.A. Finance & Property

Committee. Proceeds from this initiative will fund a 25-bed Rehabilitation Unit, create 3 High Support Hostels, develop a Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit within the units at Tallaght and build a new Mental Health Centre in Ballyfermot.

By relocating Social Work and Occupational Therapy staff to alternative accommodation in Naas, it is intended to create a Sector HQ for the Mid-East Mental Health Team. This facility at St. David's House, Main St., Naas, would act as an interim measure until St. Mary's becomes available.

It is recognised that the South Western Area Health Board will require significant additional capital allocation to complete the suite of services required in our mental health services.

2. Dr. Kieran Harkin

“With regard to the waiting list for methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) at the Aisling Treatment Centre, Cherry Orchard, could the C.E.O. please advise;

- How many patients are on the waiting list at present?
- How many new patients were accepted for treatment in the past 3 months?
- How many new patients were accepted for treatment in the past 12 months?
- How many patients were on the waiting list 12 months ago?
- How many patients are on MMT at present?
- How many patients were on MMT 12 months ago?
- General practitioners and patients are being advised that there is an eleven month waiting list for MMT at Aisling. Could the C.E.O. please comment on this waiting list with regard to the first 'key performance indicator' in the treatment pillar of the National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008? This states there should be 'immediate access to professional assessment and counselling by health board services, followed by commencement of treatment as deemed appropriate, not later than one month after assessment'.

Reply:

- On 31st October 2003 there were 70 individuals on the waiting list for Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT).
- In the three months to 31st October 2003 there were 20 individuals who began on MMT in the Aisling Addiction Centre.
- In the period October 2002 to October 2003 there were 163 “episodes of commencement”. This refers to the number of MMT episodes initiated but may not represent 163 “new” patients on MMT. An example here would be when prisoners who have previously been in treatment in the Aisling Addiction Centre are released from custody they are recommenced in treatment in the Addiction Centre.
- On 31st October 2002 there were 51 individuals on the waiting list.
- On 31st October 2003 there were 290 individuals on MMT.
- On 31st October 2002 there were 262 individuals on MMT.
- The clinical team of the Aisling Addiction Centre meet on a weekly basis and review the current waiting list. Commencement dates for treatment of new clients are decided on a clinical basis. This can mean that persons with a shorter period on the waiting list can commence prior to other persons whose names have been on the waiting list for a longer period. As stated previously, commencement

dates are decided on a clinical priority basis. All clients on the waiting list are offered access to counselling services. In this regard the Board meets the Key Performance Indicator in terms of the National Drugs Strategy 2001–2008. In relation to the provision of treatment in the Aisling Addiction Centre, the Board does not meet the Key Performance Indicator for all clients.

As noted previously, the Board has recently received planning permission for the provision of a treatment centre for the Clondalkin/Lucan area. The Board is currently in negotiation with the Eastern Regional Health Authority in relation to the development of this facility which will be necessary in order for the Board to meet its Key Performance Indicator in relation to access to treatment for persons from the Ballyfermot/Clondalkin area.

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REVIEW OF ADEQUACY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES 2002

Ms. M. Clear, Director of Children & Family Services, gave a slide presentation to Board Members on the draft Review of Adequacy of Children & Family Services 2002 Report which had been previously circulated [copy filed with official minute].

Discussion followed to which Cllr. E. Byrne, Dr. S. Barry, Cllr. T. Ridge and Cllr. T. Cullen contributed and to which Mr. H. Kane, Mr. M. Rogan and the C.E.O. responded as follows:-

- Members were informed that, although there are inadequacies in the service, the board's actions are dependent on other factors such as employment ceiling, financial resources, etc. and consequently services are prioritised and targeted at those cases which are most in need.
- Members were informed that the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services are working to address the issue of provision of services for children who present at Accident & Emergency following an episode of self-harm or suicide attempt. Staff recruitment drives for this service over the past year were outlined. An update will be brought to the relevant Standing Committee in this regard at a later date.
- Positive comments regarding progress/improvements which had taken place in the children and families services over the past few years were noted.
- It was indicated to members that the Eastern Regional Health Authority is the next "link" for our Board concerning this report.
- Preliminary details regarding additional funding for childcare services for the Eastern region, as outlined in the Letter of Determination for next year, were highlighted and noted.

On a proposal by Cllr. T. Cullen, seconded by Ms. A. Harris, the Review of Adequacy of Children and Family Services 2002 Report was adopted.

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C.E.O.'S REPORT

The C.E.O. read Report No. 13/2003 to members [copy filed with official minute].

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

- Health Services Reform Programme
- Provider Plan
- Mental Health Services Update
- Addiction Services Update
- Funding for Partnership Projects
- Influenza Campaign
- Cancer Action Week
- Christmas Message

Discussion followed to which Cllr. J. Reilly, Dr. S. Barry, Cllr. C. McGrath, Mr. G. Brady, Cllr. T. Ridge and Cllr. D. Tipping contributed. The following were the main issues arising from the discussion:-

- It was agreed to hold a Joint Standing Committee meeting on 13th January, 2004, regarding the 2004 Provider Plan, with a subsequent Board Meeting later in the month, as required.
- Members' comments regarding the reform of the health services were noted.

The C.E.O.'s report was noted.

At this point, the Chairman welcomed Cllr. Adrian Kane as a new member of the Board to replace Deputy Jack Wall.

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MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

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PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

On a proposal by Cllr. T. Ridge, seconded by Ms. A. Harris, the progress report from the Primary, Acute and Community Services Standing Committee meeting held on 13th November, 2003, was adopted.

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Ms. M. Hoban, the progress report from the Special Meeting of the Primary, Acute and Community Services Standing Committee meeting held on 17th November, 2003, was adopted.

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NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following motion, which had been deferred from the November Board Meeting, was proposed by Cllr. C. McGrath and seconded by Cllr. T. Ridge:-

“That this Board acknowledges with interest the five year strategy (2003-2008) for Peamount Hospital, as published by the hospital Board, with the emphasis on the provision of Rehabilitation and Continuing Care Services for Older People and Adults with neurological,

pulmonary and intellectual disabilities, however, expresses its concern at the proposed transition plan for the Chest Hospital to other hospitals in the region. This departure away from the provision of Acute Services could jeopardise the potential future of Peamount as a general hospital serving the ever expanding populations in Lucan (Adamstown), Clondalkin, Newcastle and surrounding areas and could have serious implications for the receiving hospitals with the risk of cross infection and a reversal of the decline in the incidence of TB.”

Following discussion to which Cllr. C. McGrath, Cllr. J. Reilly, Cllr. E. Byrne, Ms. M. Hoban, Cllr. J. Daly, Cllr. T. Ridge and Cllr. D. Tipping contributed, and to which the C.E.O. and Mr. H. Kane responded, it was agreed to defer the motion until after a meeting has been held with Peamount Hospital and representatives from E.R.H.A. senior management and a delegation of E.R.H.A. members. It was noted that the wording may be amended from the original text when next submitted.

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CORRESPONDENCE

The items of correspondence, as referred to in the C.E.O.’s report, were noted by members.

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SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS (DECEMBER 2003)

The Schedule of Visits for Board Members and Committee Meetings for December 2003 was noted by members.

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DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Details of the next meeting of the Board to be advised at a later date.

At the conclusion of the meeting, and arising from the C.E.O.’s Report, it was agreed, at members’ request, to write to the Irish Cancer Society to commend them on their recently produced booklet on men’s cancer prevention and early detection which had been circulated to members for information.

CORRECT: **P. DONNELLY**
 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CHAIRMAN