

SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held in the Board Room, South Western Area Health Board Headquarters, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, on Tuesday, 14th January, 2003, at 2.00 p.m.

Present

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

Non-Voting Members

Ms. N. Harvey	Mr. G. McGuire
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Apologies

Mr. G. Brady

In the Chair

Cllr. T. Ridge

Officers in Attendance

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer
 Mr. P. Bennett, Assistant Chief Executive
 Mr. H. Kane, Assistant Chief Executive
 Mr. D. Lyons, A/Assistant Chief Executive
 Mr. T. McMahon, Director of Human Resources
 Mr. R. Mitchell, Director of Communications
 Mr. J. Leech, A/Director of Finance
 Mr. R. Healy, Board Secretary
 Mr. R. Kavanagh, Senior Manager, Operations
 Ms. C. Cuffe, Senior Manager, Operations
 Ms. C. Bergin, Senior Manager, Operations
 Mr. K. Cleary, Senior Manager, Operations
 Ms. P. Dempsey, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office
 Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office

In Attendance

Dr. M. Fitzgerald, Senior Surveillance Scientist, N.D.S.C.
 Ms. P. Garry, Immunisation Co-ordinator
 Dr. J. O'Donnell, Specialist in Public Health Medicine, N.D.S.C.

01/2003

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 then proceeded to advise members of the following:-

1. February Board Meeting

Following conversations with Mr. Seán Daly, Master of the Coombe Women's Hospital, our board meeting will be held there on 4th February, 2003. Details of exact location, parking and other arrangements will be forwarded to you with the February agenda papers.

02/2003

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2002

The minutes of the proceedings of the Board Meeting held on 10th December, 2002, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Mr. J. Fallon

03/2003

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Cllr. M. Miley, it was agreed to answer the question which had been lodged.

1. Cllr. Charlie O'Connor, T.D.

"To ask the C.E.O. to confirm his absolute commitment to source funding for the immediate redevelopment of Millbrook Lawns Health Centre in Tallaght noting that the situation now requires urgent action and will he make a statement?"

Reply:

I am absolutely committed to making every effort to source funding for the above. The redevelopment of this Health Centre remains one of our Board's top priorities for 2003.

A submission has been made to the E.R.H.A. regarding this development and the Authority in turn have made submissions to the Department of Health & Children prioritising this project, and in particular seeking approval for the appointment of a Design Team.

In the interim, to facilitate the ongoing provision of services from the existing Centre, necessary maintenance, repairs and improvements are being made on an ongoing basis. These include, the installation of integrated fire alarm system, roof repairs and improvements to the electrical system. Essential painting and redecoration work was also carried out. Some extra accommodation was made available as a result of better utilisation of existing space and rooms.

04/2003

PRESENTATION RE MENINGITIS C IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

Dr. Margaret Fitzgerald, Senior Surveillance Scientist, National Disease Surveillance Centre (N.D.S.C.) gave a slide presentation to members regarding the Meningitis C Immunisation Programme.

Members thanked Dr. Fitzgerald for her presentation. Discussion followed to which Dr. M. Gueret, Cllr. T. Cullen, Dr. S. Barry, Dr. K. Harkin, Mr. J. Fallon, Cllr. T. Ridge and Cllr. J. Reilly contributed and to which Dr. Fitzgerald responded as follows:-

- Specific “at risk” groups will continue to be targeted.
- Much of the success of the Meningitis C campaign can be attributed to the successful working together of general practitioners and immunisation teams with targeted groups.
- A breakdown analysis was given of the 7 cases of Meningitis C which occurred since October 2000 who had received the Meningitis C vaccine.

The presentation was noted by members.

05/2003

LOTTERY FUNDING 2002

The C.E.O. advised members of the proposed allocation of Lottery Funding 2002, details of which had been circulated with the agenda papers, and requested that any members with specific queries regarding same should direct them to the office of the relevant Assistant Chief Executive after the meeting.

Discussion followed to which Cllr. D. Tipping, Cllr. E. Byrne, Dr. M. Gueret, Cllr. T. Ridge and Cllr. T. Cullen contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded as follows:-

- The qualifying criteria, current application process and method of allocation of Lottery Funding was clarified.
- The current procedure re allocation of Lottery Funding grants and access to information for applicants may be reviewed by our Board through the relevant Standing Committee.

Members noted the allocations.

06/2003

C.E.O.’S REPORT

Prior to reading his report, the C.E.O. advised that an update will be brought to members at a forthcoming Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee regarding arrangements by the Board following recent issues concerning the water supply in the Baltinglass area late last year.

The C.E.O. then read Report No. 1/2003 to members [copy filed with official minute].

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

- Accident & Emergency - Naas General Hospital

- Immunisation
- Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Service
- Autism Day Service
- Naas Springboard Child and Family Project
- Health Promotion Conference
- Medical Cards
- Staff Appointment

Discussion followed to which Ms. A. Harris, Cllr. D. Tipping, Mr. J. Fallon, Dr. K. Harkin, Dr. M. Gueret, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. C. Byrne, Cllr. T. Ridge, Ms. M. Hoban and Ms. N. Harvey contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded as follows:-

- Enquiries will be made to the Eastern Regional Health Authority regarding an emergency service initiative in Northern Ireland. The C.E.O. re-iterated that members of the public should reflect before using A&E Departments as their first service choice as an alternative service may be more appropriate.
- An updated version of the map circulated to members indicating uptake of MMR vaccine in our Board's area will be drawn up to show uptake by D.E.D.
- Regular updates on progress regarding immunisation in our Board's area will be brought to the appropriate Standing Committee.
- The C.E.O. re-emphasised that there is no scientific evidence to connect autism with MMR vaccine.
- The position regarding means-tested medical cards for persons over 70 years was explained.

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

07/2003

MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

08/2003

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

On a proposal by Ms. M. Hoban, seconded by Ms. A. Harris, the progress report from the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee meeting dated 12th December, 2002, was adopted.

On a proposal by Dr. B. Murphy, seconded by Mr. J. Fallon, the progress report from the Disabilities, Mental Health & Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee meeting dated 5th December, 2002, was adopted.

On a proposal by Dr. B. Murphy, seconded by Mr. J. Fallon, the progress report from the Disabilities, Mental Health & Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee meeting dated 19th December, 2002, was adopted.

09/2003

NOTICE OF MOTION

The motion in the name of Cllr. C. O'Connor, T.D., listed on the agenda as Item 9.1 was deferred as Cllr. O'Connor agreed to accept a written response to same.

10/2003

CORRESPONDENCE

The item of correspondence, as referred to in the C.E.O.'s report, was noted by members.

11/2003

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

The schedule of visits for Board Members and Standing Committee meetings for January 2003, which had been circulated with the agenda papers, was noted by members.

12/2003

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The February meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 4th February, 2003, at 2.00 p.m. in the Coombe Women's Hospital, Dolphins Barn, Dublin 8.

CORRECT:

**P. DONNELLY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN