

**SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD**

**Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held  
in the Education Centre, Peamont Hospital, Newcastle, Co. Dublin,  
on Tuesday, 2nd September, 2003, at 2.00 p.m.**

*Present*

Mr. P. Aspell	Dr. S. Barry
Cllr. C. Byrne	Cllr. E. Byrne
Cllr. J. Daly	Dr. M. Gueret
Dr. K. Harkin	Ms. M. Hoban
Cllr. C. McGrath	Cllr. M. Miley
Ald. M. Mooney	Dr. B. Murphy
Cllr. F. O'Loughlin	Cllr. J. Reilly
Cllr. T. Ridge	Cllr. D. Tipping

*Non-Voting Members*

Ms. N. Harvey	Cllr. G. McGuire
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*Apologies*

Ms. A. Harris

*In the Chair*

Ald. M. Mooney

*Officers in Attendance*

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer  
Mr. H. Kane, Assistant Chief Executive  
Mr. R. Mitchell, Assistant Chief Executive  
Ms. R. Buckley, Assistant Chief Executive  
Mr. M. Rogan, Assistant Chief Executive  
Mr. D. Delaney, Director of Communications  
Mr. J. Leech, A/Director of Finance  
Ms. B. Hannon, Director of Services for Older Persons  
Ms. C. Cuffe, Senior Manager, Operations  
Ms. C. Bergin, Senior Manager, Operations  
Mr. R. Healy, Board Secretary  
Ms. P. Dempsey, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office  
Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office

At the outset, Ms. A. Quinlan, Chair of Board of Peamount Hospital, addressed members briefly and welcomed them to the hospital. Ald. M. Mooney, Chairman, thanked Ms. Quinlan and Mr. R. Mullan for facilitating the Board in holding the meeting at Peamount Hospital and expressed appreciation to the catering staff on behalf of the members for the lunch provided.

Following the introductions and welcome, the Chairman proceeded with the following announcements for members.

## **89/2003**

### **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 also advised members of the following:-

#### **1. *Order of Business***

Members will be aware of issues concerning Naas General Hospital and in a note sent out with the agenda papers for this meeting your attention was drawn to the fact that the C.E.O. will be making particular mention in his report today of this matter.

If members wish, we can change the order of business and take the presentation by the Chief Executive of Peamount Hospital, Mr. Robin Mullan, as the next item on the agenda after Chairman's Business followed immediately by the C.E.O.'s Report.

*This was agreed by members present.*

#### **2. *Golden Jubilee – Cherry Orchard Hospital***

I would like to inform members that a celebration will take place on Sunday, 14th September, 2003, at 2.00 p.m. at Cherry Orchard Hospital to mark the Golden Jubilee of the opening of the hospital.

All members are invited to attend – full details will be forwarded to you nearer the date.

#### **3. *Finance and Property Committee Meeting***

I would like to inform members that a Finance and Property Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17th September, 2003 at 3.30 p.m. in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas. Details of the meeting will be forwarded to committee members nearer the date.

The Child Care Advisory Committee meeting which was to precede this meeting as indicated in the agenda papers will now be deferred, at the request of the Committee Chairman, to a later date which will be notified to the relevant members.

#### **4. *Standing Committee – Venue***

The venue for the Disabilities, Mental Health, Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee meeting to be held on Thursday, 18th September, 2003, at 11.00 a.m. will be the Board Room, St. Brigids Home, Crooksling, Brittas, Co. Dublin.

**90/2003****MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 1ST JULY, 2003, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 9TH JULY, 2003, AND SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS HELD ON 1ST AND 15TH AUGUST, 2003**

The minutes of the proceedings of the above meetings, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. D. Tipping, seconded by Cllr. J. Reilly.

**91/2003****QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

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

**1. Cllr. Jim Reilly**

“To ask the Chief Executive to outline in the fullest detail the position relating to the provision of a replacement Health Centre at Coill Dubh, Naas, as the delay to date has, and continues to, incur great hardship for the elderly and parents of young children who must find a way of travelling to neighbouring centres for services.”

**Reply:**

It is the Board’s stated intention to provide a replacement Health Centre in Coill Dubh as soon as possible, subject to the necessary capital funding being made available. Coill Dubh Health Centre was unfortunately destroyed by fire in 1998. The premises was a small building that by today’s standards would be considered inadequate to fulfil the primary needs of a community. The Board, in its efforts to secure a replacement, has pursued two avenues:-

- The adjoining landowner was approached with a view to selling a portion of land that would be sufficient to construct what is now considered the standard Health Centre, similar to Derrinturn.
- A valuation was obtained for this land and additional capital money has been sought for this approach. No decision has been received to date.

An alternative proposal to secure a large site that would be suitable for a new Primary Care Centre that would entail a land swap with a local developer is under consideration. We understand that the developer is in discussions with Kildare County Council on this matter and we await his formal proposal.

**2. Dr. Siobhán Barry**

Re: S.W.A.H.B.’s financial data

“Could the C.E.O. inform the Board of the obstacles that currently prevent financial data being available to break down expenditure, thus enabling elements of service to be unit-costed (*Questions to the C.E.O., July 2003 regarding Continuing Care beds within the Kildare Mental Health Services*)?”

**Reply:**

A detailed cost analysis can be carried out for any of our services, including our residential psychiatric services. Such analysis would include a breakdown under pay and non-pay and both of these headings could also be further broken down/analysed.

Caution must, however, be exercised in using such costings in any comparison with other services, or service provider, without first taking into account the unique features of each facility and the dependency profile of each client cared for.

**92/2003****PRESENTATION RE SERVICES AT PEAMOUNT HOSPITAL**

*(This item was taken directly after Chairman's Business)*

Mr. Robin Mullan, Chief Executive, Peamount Hospital, gave a presentation to members on the strategy for the next five years for the hospital. He outlined the background to the review which had been carried out recently and indicated the proposals for development which had resulted from this process. The various services currently being provided at the hospital were outlined and the changing profile of the type of patients currently being treated at the hospital compared to previously was noted. The proposed developments reflect these changes.

Discussion followed to which Ald. M. Mooney, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. C. McGrath, Cllr. J. Reilly, Cllr. T. Ridge, Dr. B. Murphy, Ms. M. Hoban and Cllr. D. Tipping contributed and to which Mr. Mullan and the C.E.O. responded:-

- Mr. Mullan further clarified the hospital's plans for the development of rehabilitation services with multi-disciplinary teams.
- Issues around the development of a joint initiative with St. James's Hospital for a respiratory unit were discussed.
- The need for more rehabilitation/secondary care services in our Board's area was acknowledged.
- Members were informed that ongoing discussions are taking place with the Adelaide & Meath Hospital, incorporating the National Children's Hospital, Tallaght, regarding linkages with Peamount Hospital re developments.
- Board members' role as members of the Eastern Regional Health Authority in endorsing the planned developments at the hospital was emphasised.

Members noted that the plans for developments at Peamount Hospital will also be discussed at a forthcoming Standing Committee meeting in E.R.H.A.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Mullan for his presentation which was noted by members.

**93/2003****PRESENTATION RE SERVICES FOR OLDER PERSONS IN THE SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD**

With members' agreement, this item was deferred to the next Board Meeting, due to pressure of time.

**94/2003**

**C.E.O.'S REPORT**

*(This item was taken directly after Mr. Mullan's presentation)*

The C.E.O. presented Report No. 10/2003 to members [copy filed with official minute].

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

- Naas General Hospital
- Meath Hospital – Unit for Older People
- Employment Ceiling
- Initiative on Long-Stay Beds
- Funding for Minor Capital Initiatives
- Funding for Disability Services
- Pearse Street/Irishtown Health Centres
- Funding for Partnership Project
- Baltinglass Water Supply
- Disability Information Awareness Week
- Mental Health Commission Report
- Office of Wards of Court Booklet
- Bilateral Adoption Agreement between Ireland and Vietnam
- Policy Change in Breastfeeding Guidelines
- Ban on Smoking in the Workplace

Discussion followed to which Dr. B. Murphy, Cllr. J. Reilly, Cllr. D. Tipping, Cllr. C. Byrne, Mr. P. Aspell, Cllr. M. Miley, Cllr. E. Byrne, Dr. S. Barry, Cllr. G. McGuire, Ms. M. Hoban, Ms. N. Harvey, Cllr. C. McGrath and Ald. M. Mooney contributed. In the course of the discussion, and on a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Cllr. F. O'Loughlin, members agreed to support the statement by the Medical and Allied Professional Community in Ireland regarding the adoption and signing of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

The C.E.O responded as follows:-

- The communication of information to Board Members regarding local issues to be reviewed.
- The process followed, which resulted in the decision to open the A&E Department in Naas General Hospital from existing resources, was outlined.
- Issues for the Board regarding the implementation of the ban on smoking in the workplace, which will be coming into effect in January 2004, were highlighted.
- Issues concerning the cost and outcome of the screening of local residents in Baltinglass following the discovery of contaminated water in a well earlier in the year were referred to.
- The ongoing work in addressing the employment ceiling was highlighted.
- The situation regarding the provision of home help services to be highlighted to the Minister.

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

**95/2003****MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

At the request of a member, it was agreed to follow up with the Federated Dublin Voluntary Hospitals on an issue raised regarding the number of consultant radiologists, for accreditation purposes.

**96/2003****PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

On a proposal by Cllr. D. Tipping, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy, the progress reports from the following Standing Committee meetings were adopted:-

- Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee meeting held on 10th July, 2003.
- Disabilities, Mental Health & Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee meeting held on 17th July, 2003.

**97/2003****CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**98/2003****SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS (SEPTEMBER 2003)**

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

**99/2003****DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The October meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 7th October, 2003, at 2.00 p.m. in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.

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

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**CHAIRMAN**