

SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held in the Education Centre, St. Luke's Hospital, Rathgar, Dublin 6, on Tuesday, 3rd February, 2004, at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Mr. P. Aspell
Cllr. C. Byrne
Cllr. T. Cullen
Dr. M. Gueret
Ms. A. Harris
Cllr. C. McGrath
Dr. B. Murphy
Cllr. J. Reilly
Cllr. D. Tipping

Dr. S. Barry
Cllr. E. Byrne
Cllr. J. Daly
Dr. K. Harkin
Mr. C. Lynch
Ald. M. Mooney
Cllr. F. O'Loughlin
Cllr. T. Ridge

Non-Voting Members

Ms. N. Harvey

Apologies

Cllr. M. Miley

Cllr. G. McGuire

In the Chair

Ald. M. Mooney

Officers in Attendance

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. H. Kane, Deputy C.E.O.
Mr. R. Mitchell, Assistant Chief Executive
Ms. R. Buckley, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. M. Rogan, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. D. Lyons, Director of Finance
Mr. D. Delaney, Director of Communications
Ms. P. Bryan, Director of Primary Care & Acute Services
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

02/2004

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*

If it is acceptable to members I would like to change one item on the order of business and take the presentation by the Chief Executive Officer of St. Luke's Hospital, Mr. Lorcan Birthistle, as the next item on the agenda after Chairman's Business.

This was agreed and Mr. Birthistle proceeded with a presentation to members on services at St. Luke's Hospital (see Item No. 05/2004 below).

Following Mr. Birthistle's presentation and the ensuing discussion, the Chairman resumed with the following notices to members:-

2. *Protocol & Procedures Committee Progress Report*

A revised copy of the Progress Report from the meeting of the Protocol and Procedures Committee held on 23rd January 2004 has been circulated with the papers on your desk today. The Chairman of the committee had requested that some extra details be added to the report.

3. *Official Opening of Refurbishments at Drogheda Memorial Hospital*

Last Sunday, 1st February, I officially opened the new Drogheda Memorial Hospital/St. Brigid's Hospice. This development provides for a number of long stay beds for older people, beds for palliative care and other new facilities. The expanded facilities provide a crucial service to meet increasing demands for care in the area

I would like to thank all those who were involved in the opening of these facilities in particular, the Friends of St. Brigid's Hospice, the Governors of the Hospital, and the hospice, hospital and health board staff.

4. *Special Board Meeting re: Health Services Reform*

I would like to inform members that a Special Board Meeting on the Health Reform Programme will take place on Monday 16th February at 2.00 p.m in the Boardroom, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas.

5. *Finance and Property Committee Meeting*

I would also like to inform members that a Finance and Property Committee Meeting will take place on Monday 1st March at 2.00 p.m in the Boardroom, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas.

6. *Launch of Mental Health Report/Opening of Mental Health Centre*

I would like to notify members of the launch of “Mental Health in Primary Care” and the official opening of Tallaght Mental Health Centre by Mr. Tim O’Malley, Minister of State at the Department of Health and Children. These events will commence at 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 17th February, 2004, at Tallaght Mental Health Services, Exchange Hall, Tallaght.

7. *Visit of President McAleese to Cherry Orchard Hospital*

I would like to notify members of the visit by President McAleese to Cherry Orchard Hospital on Tuesday, 24th February, 2004 at 11.00 a.m. The President’s visit is to mark the ongoing 50th anniversary celebrations of the hospital.

8. *New Member*

As I couldn’t attend the Special Board Meeting last week I personally would like to welcome Mr. Christy Lynch, (CEO KARE) as a new member of our board.

9. *St. Luke’s Hospital*

Finally I would to thank Mr. Lorcan Birthistle, CEO, St Luke’s Hospital and his staff for facilitating our meeting here today.

03/2004

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 9TH DECEMBER, 2003

The minutes of the proceedings of the Board Meeting held on 9th December, 2003, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Mr. P. Aspell.

04/2004

QUESTIONS TO THE C.E.O.

On a proposal by Dr. B. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. C. McGrath, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged:-

1. *Dr. Kieran Harkin*

“With regard to the waiting list for methadone treatment in the South Western Area Health Board area, could the C.E.O. please advise;

- How many patients were on methadone treatment 12 months ago?
- How many patients are on methadone treatment at present?
- How many patients were on waiting lists 12 months ago?
- How many patients are on waiting lists at present?
- How many new patients have been accepted for treatment in the past 12 months?
- Could the C.E.O. please give details of the above with reference to individual clinics, individual satellite centres and, collectively, general practice methadone protocol?

- Could the C.E.O. please comment on waiting lists 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:

- In November 2002 there were 2,430 persons in treatment.
- In November 2003 there were 2,588 persons in treatment.
- In November 2002 there were 107 persons on waiting list.
- In November 2003 there were 129 persons on waiting list.
- There were 214 new patients in 2003.
- As at November 2003 the following are the waiting list totals for the various treatment locations in the board's area:

Treatment Location	No. on Waiting List
Aisling Clinic	68
Fortune House/CASP	6*
St. James's Clinic	15
Cork Street	0
Castle Street	4
Drimnagh	8
Old County Road (The Lodge)	1
Tallaght	27
Total:	129

** Discussion still ongoing with CASP re validation of their waiting list figure.*

- In relation to Performance Indicators for the Addiction Service, we would acknowledge that in the Tallaght, Ballyfermot/Clondalkin and Dublin 8 areas we are not reaching our targets. In the absence of relevant development monies and capital investment, this situation will continue for the foreseeable future. In relation to the Tallaght area, some of the Board's services have relocated to Belgard Road and as this building continues to develop it will help alleviate the waiting list in the Tallaght area.

2. Dr. Kieran Harkin

"It has come to the notice of this board member that some patients, out of desperation, secure the services of a private occupational therapist for the purpose of grant assessment for bathroom conversions, installation of hoists etc. Could the C.E.O. please comment upon this practice in general and specifically with regard to its effects on equity of access to S.W.A.H.B. resources? Could the C.E.O. also explain how it appears to be possible for inexperienced patients of relatively modest means to secure the services of a private occupational therapist when it appears that the S.W.A.H.B. is unable to do so?"

Reply:

The Disabled Person's Grant (DPG) process is administered through the local authorities on behalf of the Department of the Environment. Traditionally, Community Occupational Therapists, employed by the various health boards, have provided reports to the local authority regarding the applicant's functional ability and have recommended appropriate necessary adaptations to meet the individual's needs.

Community Occupational Therapists deal with the DPG process in two ways:- On one hand, the applicant is an existing client of the Community O.T. service and it has recommended that their client should apply for the DPG. In these circumstances the Community Occupational Therapist will follow through on the report and recommendations.

On the other hand, the Community O.T. service receives a request for a report from the local authority and the applicant is not currently known to the Community O.T. service. In these circumstances the request - if accompanied by a signed copy of the G.P.'s certificate of diagnosis or copy of completed application form which includes the G.P. certificate, depending on local authority involved - is prioritised according to our normal procedure.

It should be noted that local authority procedures differ. For instance, South Dublin County Council will appoint a private O.T. if the applicant is not known to the Community O.T. service. Dublin City Council will not appoint a private O.T. but will advise clients to contact the health board and it is important to be aware that it (Dublin City Council) will also give the applicant the contact details for the O.T. Association, where the applicant is not prepared to wait for a Community O.T.

In light of the foregoing, it can well be argued that the issue of equity of access to S.W.A.H.B. resources specifically does not arise because the physical resources are under the control of the local authority. Furthermore, where these applicants (in the case of the Dublin City Council) do decide to engage with our services for assessment purposes towards securing the DPG, they are placed on the appropriate priority list on a chronological basis without disadvantaging any other clients. As regards the general concept of engaging services privately to secure a service in a more expeditious manner, one must be mindful that this phenomenon is not unknown in other services such as orthodontics and is ultimately a matter of choice.

As regards the ability or otherwise of S.W.A.H.B. to recruit private Occupational Therapists, at no stage in the past has the S.W.A.H.B. endeavoured to recruit in this regard and the suggestion that it has been "unable" has never arisen. Indeed, it has been the policy of the Board, in terms of therapy grades, not to engage the services of private practitioners for a number of valid reasons. At present it is considered prudent to continue to adhere to this policy, nonetheless, the policy could be re-evaluated if circumstances change.

05/2004

PRESENTATION ON SERVICES AT ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL

Mr. Lorcan Birthistle, Chief Executive, St. Luke's Hospital, addressed members on the services and developments at St. Luke's Hospital. The presentation covered the following areas - information on the Hospital Board, developments over recent years, description of the radiotherapy services available at the hospital, development of Oaklands Lodge, hospital activity levels and the possible future role of the hospital in the plans for the development of radiation oncology services nationally.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Birthistle for his presentation and suggested that members would like to attend a service visit at the hospital in the coming months. Mr. Birthistle welcomed this suggestion. Discussion then followed to which Cllr. E. Byrne and Ms. A. Harris, contributed and to which Mr. Birthistle responded.

The presentation was noted.

The C.E.O. then thanked Mr. Birthistle, his staff and the catering staff for their assistance in the organisation of the meeting.

06/2004

PRESENTATION RE PRIMARY CARE

Mr. H. Kane, Assistant Chief Executive, introduced Ms. P. Bryan, Director for Primary Care, who gave a slide presentation to members regarding primary care developments in the Board's area. The presentation included information on the Liberties Primary Care Team, Primary Care Partnerships in the Board's area, their interface with hospital services and the development of the Primary Care Strategy.

Members thanked Ms. Bryan and discussion followed to which Ald. M. Mooney, Cllr. E. Byrne, Dr. M. Gueret, Dr. S. Barry, Cllr. C. Byrne, Cllr. J. Reilly, Cllr. C. McGrath, Dr. B. Murphy, Mr. C. Lynch and Dr. K. Harkin contributed and to which Mr. H. Kane, Deputy C.E.O. responded as follows:-

- The ongoing challenge in striving to develop primary care in line with the Primary Care Strategy, with limited human resources, was highlighted. The need to prioritise some posts was raised.
- It was noted that approximately 70% of G.P.s in the Board's area are working in the Primary Care Partnership initiatives.
- The need to promote linkages between the primary care and secondary care settings was acknowledged.
- The board's involvement with the development of the Fatima Wellness Centre was outlined.
- The current situation regarding some GMS vacancies was outlined.
- The need to review the provision of dental services in the primary care setting was acknowledged.
- It was agreed to review and report back to members on the KDoc Service.

The presentation was noted.

07/2004
C.E.O.'S REPORT

The C.E.O. read Report No. 2/2004 to members [copy filed with official minute].

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

- Brú Chaoimhín Update
- Official Opening of the Refurbishments at Drogheda Memorial Hospital
- Moore Abbey Update
- Public Health Laboratory I.T. System
- Addiction Services Update
- Mental Health Services Update
- Ombudsman for Children
- Health Reform Programme
- Report on Men's Health in Ireland
- Foster Care Allowances
- National Disability Authority Report
- Drug Awareness Campaign
- Medical Cards
- ALBA Counselling Service – New Appointment
- General Manager Assignments

Discussion followed to which Cllr. C. Byrne, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. J. Reilly, Dr. B. Murphy and Mr. C. Lynch contributed and to which the C.E.O. and Ms. R. Buckley, Assistant Chief Executive, responded.

- Members' good wishes to the General Managers in advance of their new area assignments were noted.
- Recent developments in the foster care service, in an effort to develop a more professional service, were outlined. The need for supervision of the service was also acknowledged.
- The current situation regarding a wall at Bru Chaoimhin was outlined.
- It was confirmed that the new joint initiative between the Board and St. James's Hospital for Intervention Unit the based at Bru Chaoimhin will be monitored closely to ensure that the agreed admissions policy is adhered to.
- Information regarding the proposed development of a dual diagnosis facility at Moore Abbey, Monasterevin, was further outlined.

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

08/2004
MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

09/2004**PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

On a proposal by Cllr. T. Ridge, seconded by Cllr. C. McGrath, the Progress Reports from the following Standing Committee meetings were agreed:-

- Joint Standing Committee (13.01.04)
- Mental Health & Special Care Standing Committee (22.01.04)
- Primary, Acute and Community Services Standing Committee (23.01.04)

10/2004**PROGRESS REPORTS FROM PROTOCOL & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE**

On a proposal by Cllr. T. Ridge, seconded by Cllr. J. Reilly, the Progress Reports from the Protocol & Procedures Committee meetings dated 15th December, 2003, and 23rd January, 2004, were adopted.

11/2004**PROGRESS REPORT FROM CHILD CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Cllr. T. Ridge, the Progress Report from the Child Care Advisory Committee was adopted.

12/2004**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

13/2004**SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(FEBRUARY 2004)**

The schedule of visits for Board Members and Committee Meetings for February 2004, which had been circulated with the agenda papers, was noted by members.

14/2004**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The March meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 2nd March, 2004, at 2.00 p.m. in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Cllr. C. McGrath referred to the motion which he had tabled with Cllr. J. Daly at the December 2003 Board Meeting regarding Peamount Hospital. It had

been agreed at that meeting to defer the motion until after a meeting had been held with Peamount Hospital and representatives from E.R.H.A. senior management and a delegation of E.R.H.A. members. As this meeting has not as yet taken place, it was agreed to find out if this meeting has been scheduled, following which Cllr. McGrath and Cllr. Daly, along with Cllr. T. Ridge, at her request, will re-submit their motion.

CORRECT: P. DONNELLY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER