

**SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD**

**Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, on Tuesday, 2nd March, 2004, at 2.00 p.m.**

*Present*

Dr. S. Barry	Cllr. E. Byrne
Cllr. T. Cullen	Cllr. J. Daly
Dr. K. Harkin	Ms. A. Harris
Cllr. A. Kane	Mr. C. Lynch
Cllr. C. McGrath	Cllr. M. Miley
Ald. M. Mooney	Dr. B. Murphy
Cllr. F. O'Loughlin	Cllr. J. Reilly
Cllr. D. Tipping	

*Non-Voting Members*

Cllr. G. McGuire

*Apologies*

Mr. P. Aspell	Cllr. C. Byrne
Ms. N. Harvey	Cllr. T. Ridge

*In the Chair*

Ald. M. Mooney

*Officers in Attendance*

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer  
 Mr. H. Kane, Deputy C.E.O.  
 Ms. R. Buckley, Assistant Chief Executive  
 Mr. M. Rogan, Assistant Chief Executive  
 Mr. D. Delaney, Director of Communications  
 Ms. M. Gorry, A/Director of Human Resources  
 Mr. K. Cleary, Senior Manager  
 Mr. R. Healy, Board Secretary  
 Ms. V. Whelan, Primary Care Unit Manager  
 Ms. P. Dempsey, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office  
 Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office

*In Attendance*

Ms. M. Coptly, Project Director, Mental Health in Primary Care Project

At the outset of the meeting, Cllr. T. Cullen enquired regarding progress on a report being prepared concerning the water supply in the Baltinglass area. The Deputy C.E.O. informed members that the Draft Report will be brought to the April Standing Committee meeting and thereafter to the Board Meeting in May.

**16/2004**

**CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

As there were no names for inclusion on the list of condolences this month, members were invited to join with the Chairman in standing for a minute's silence to express sincere sympathy to the people who were killed and injured in the tragic Dublin Bus accident which took place in our board's area on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2004.

The Chairman then advised members of the following:-

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

On the 17<sup>th</sup> February last I officiated at the launch of the report "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 took place at Exchange Hall, Tallaght.

I would like to thank all those who were involved in the production and launch of the report and the opening of these facilities, especially all the staff involved and the clients of the service.

I note that the author of the report, Mimi Coptly, is here with us today to talk to us on the findings of the report and I look forward to her presentation.

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

This day last week, 24<sup>th</sup> February, I officiated at the visit of President McAleese to Cherry Orchard Hospital to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the hospital. President McAleese unveiled a commemorative stone and met with patients and staff during her visit.

I would like to thank all those involved with the visit especially the residents, clients and staff of the hospital.

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

I would also like to inform members that a rescheduled Finance and Property Committee Meeting will now take place on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> March, at 11.00 a.m. in the Boardroom, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas.

**4. *Special Board Meeting***

I would like to remind members that a Special Board Meeting on the South Western Area Health Board Adult Mental Health Service will take place this day next week, Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, at 2.00 p.m. here in the Boardroom. This notice is included in the Agenda Papers.

## 5. *Out of Region Visit*

I would like to remind members of the proposed visit to Raheen District Hospital in East Clare on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March. This visit will give an insight into the Elderly Services of the Mid-Western Health Board area and in particular cover the concept of Case and Care Management.

As tomorrow is the last day for members to indicate their attendance, I would encourage members who are interested in going to contact the C.E.O.'s Office if they haven't already done so.

Further details will be forwarded to members in due course.

### **17/2004**

#### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING HELD ON 30TH JANUARY, 2004, BOARD MEETING HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY, 2004 & SPECIAL BOARD MEETING HELD ON 16TH FEBRUARY, 2004.**

The minutes of the proceedings of the Special Board Meeting held on 30th January, 2004, and Board Meeting held on 3rd February, 2004, and Special Board Meeting held on 16th February, 2004, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy.

### **18/2004**

#### **QUESTIONS TO THE C.E.O.**

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

#### **1. Dr. Siobhán Barry**

Re: S.W.A.H.B. Draft Provider Plan 2004

"Could the C.E.O. explain to the Board the basis for his planning on 16 involuntary admissions i.e. less than 1% of all admissions to the S.W.A.H.B. Mental Health services for 2004, when the figures for involuntary admissions published by the Inspector of Mental Hospitals for 2002 (last current report) has been a total of 246 such admissions (13%), and the previous years since the foundation of S.W.A.H.B have been in the region of 9-12% of all admissions?"

#### **Reply:**

The figure in relation to involuntary admissions in the Draft Provider Plan is incorrect. As the Provider Plan is still in draft form, this has not been submitted to E.R.H.A. as the final figure.

The three Mental Health Services in our Board have conducted a detailed "look-back exercise" in conjunction with the Mental Health Commission into involuntary admission pathways during 2002. This data is expected to offer an additional insight into referral processes.

**2. Dr. Siobhan Barry**

Re: S.W.A.H.B. Mental Health Services

Could the C.E.O. indicate the obstacles to the cost neutral process of filling approved Clinical Directors posts given that all three such posts in this Area Health Board are held in an acting capacity?

**Reply:**

The Assistant Chief Executive for Mental Health & Addiction Services held a number of consultation meetings with the Clinical Directors in Mental Health and the Consultants in the Mental Health Services.

As the situation is different in each area, distinct approaches must be taken:-

- In Dublin West/South West the post will be filled in conjunction with our service partners at AMiNCH, Tallaght.
- In Kildare/West Wicklow an additional post will be required and our Board has requested same from the Eastern Regional Health Authority.
- The Acting Clinical Director in Dublin South City is a St. Patrick's Hospital employee. Our Service Level Agreement with St. Patrick's Hospital is currently under review and the format of the Clinical Director post will be determined in the context of the final Agreement.

The following supplementary information to a question tabled for the February 2004 Board Meeting was also circulated to members.

**Original Question submitted by 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’.”

**Supplementary Information to original reply:**

- In 1998 there were **26 G.P.s** in the Addiction Services in our area.
- In 2001 there were **69 G.P.s** in the Addiction Services in our area.
- At 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2003, there were **93 G.P.s** in the board's Addiction Services.

Currently these G.P.s treat **1,118** patients. This gives an indication of the level of increase of G.P.s within our service over the years.

- We are still seeking additional investment in order to tackle issues such as waiting lists and services in certain areas, which would assist us in reaching our targets in relation to waiting times.
- Discussions are ongoing with CASP in relation to the sharing of information re clients.
- In relation to counselling, there are currently **26** treatment locations throughout the South Western Area Health Board. The board employs counsellors who provide services throughout this region and also at a number of community projects. Currently there are four counsellors providing services in the Aisling Clinic and the waiting time for clients who attend on the programme to access counselling is minimal. Two Community Drugs Teams in our area, i.e. Rialto and Inchicore, employ their own counselling staff. In addition, the Board also provides one full-time counsellor for the Rialto Project. These projects have smaller numbers attending at these programmes so they have a more immediate access to counselling.

**19/2004**

**RE: REPORT ON MENTAL HEALTH IN PRIMARY CARE**

Mr. M. Rogan, Assistant Chief Executive, informed members of the background to the Report on Mental Health in Primary Care and introduced Ms. Mimi Copty, Project Director, who gave a slide presentation which included the methodology for the project, the key findings, conclusions and recommendations of the report and the current position regarding implementation of the recommendations.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Copty for her presentation. Discussion then followed to which Cllr. J. Reilly, Dr. S. Barry, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. C. McGrath, Dr. K. Harkin, Dr. B. Murphy, Ald. M. Mooney and Mr. C. Lynch contributed and to which the C.E.O. and Assistant Chief Executive responded as follows:-

- Members' comments concerning G.P. training in mental health and the issue of prescribing of psychiatric medication in the secondary care sector as opposed to the primary care sector were acknowledged and noted.
- The role of the Irish College of General Practitioners with regard to the structuring of G.P. training programmes was highlighted.
- Members were informed of the ongoing work regarding the development of clinical protocols and the establishment of three G.P. pilot projects.

- The need to ensure that clients attend the service most appropriate to their needs and the challenge that increased service access and population increase places on current resources, was highlighted.
- The need to address the issue of availability of some mental health services in the primary care setting in the future was referred to.

The presentation was noted.

## **20/2004**

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

The C.E.O. read Report No. 3/2004 to members [copy filed with official minute].

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

- Residential Beds for Older People
- S.W.A.H.B. Home Care Grant Scheme
- Consultants Dispute
- Services for Disabilities Update
- Addiction Services Update
- Equality Framework Policy
- Open Space Project - Suicide
- New Adoption Authority
- Smoke-Free at Work
- Health Services Reform

Discussion followed to which Cllr. A. Kane, Cllr. E. Byrne and Dr. K. Harkin contributed and to which the C.E.O., Assistant Chief Executives and A/Director of Human Resources responded respectively.

- Members were informed of the various measures being taken to address the issue of the recruitment of staff for the opening of additional residential beds for older people. It was indicated that E.R.H.A. are taking this initiative into consideration in the overall context of the board's employment ceiling.
- Members were advised that discussions are ongoing with CASP regarding the sharing of information with the board.

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

## **21/2004**

### **MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

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

**22/2004****PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

On a proposal by Ms. A. Harris, seconded by Cllr. E. Byrne, the Progress Reports from the Primary, Acute and Community Services Standing Committee meetings held on 12th February, 2004, and 11th December, 2003, were adopted.

On a proposal by Cllr. A. Kane, seconded by Dr. S. Barry, the Progress Report from the Disabilities, Mental Health, Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee meeting held on 4th December, 2003, was adopted.

On a proposal by Cllr. E. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. A. Kane, the Progress Report from the Mental Health and Special Care Standing Committee meeting held on 19th February, 2004, was adopted.

On a proposal by Ms. A. Harris, seconded by Cllr. E. Byrne, the Progress Report from the Joint Standing Committee meeting held on 2nd December, 2003, was adopted.

**23/2004****NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. A. Kane and seconded by Cllr. E. Byrne:-

“That the decision to downgrade services provided at Athy Health Centre namely (1) Home Help Section (2) Medical Card Section, be reversed and that no further dilution of services provided at Athy Health Centre takes place.”

Discussion followed to which Dr. S. Barry and Cllr. A. Kane contributed and to which the C.E.O. and Deputy C.E.O. responded. Information outlining the background to the decision regarding recent organisational changes at Athy Health Centre and the services which continue to be available there, was circulated to members.

The motion was noted.

**24/2004****CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**25/2004****SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
(MARCH 2004)**

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

**26/2004**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

A Special Board Meeting regarding S.W.A.H.B. Adult Mental Health Service will be held on Tuesday, 9th March, 2004, in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare at 2.00 p.m.

The April meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 6th April, 2004, in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare at 2.00 p.m.

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