

**SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD**

**Minutes of the proceedings of the Special Meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, on Tuesday, 9th March, 2004, at 2.00 p.m.**

*Present*

Mr. P. Aspell  
Cllr. E. Byrne  
Cllr. J. Daly  
Mr. C. Lynch  
Cllr. M. Miley  
Dr. B. Murphy  
Cllr. T. Ridge

Dr. S. Barry  
Cllr. T. Cullen  
Ms. M. Hoban  
Cllr. C. McGrath  
Ald. M. Mooney  
Cllr. F. O'Loughlin  
Cllr. J. Reilly

*Non-Voting Members*

Cllr. G. McGuire

*Apologies*

Ms. A. Harris

*In the Chair*

Ald. M. Mooney

*Officers in Attendance*

Mr. H. Kane, Deputy C.E.O.  
Mr. M. Rogan, Assistant Chief Executive  
Mr. D. Delaney, Director of Communications  
Mr. G. O'Neill, A/Director for Mental Health & Addiction Services  
Mr. R. Healy, Board Secretary  
Ms. A.M. Keyes, Area Manager, Dublin West/South West Mental Health Services  
Mr. S. Molloy, Director of Nursing, Dublin West/South West Mental Health Services  
Ms. M. McMahon, Asst. Director of Nursing, Kildare/West Wicklow Mental Health Services  
Ms. A. Barry, A/Senior Manager, Operations (Mental Health)  
Ms. M. Scott, Operations (Mental Health)  
Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office

*In Attendance*

Dr. I. Daly, A/Clinical Director, Dublin West/South West Mental Health Services  
Dr. S. McGauran, A/Clinical Director, Kildare/West Wicklow Mental Health Services

At the outset, the Chairman informed members that Mr. H. Kane, Deputy C.E.O., who was in attendance, was moving to another position within the health services. Mr. Kane informed members that he had been seconded to work with the Interim Health Services Executive for the remainder of the year and thanked members for their support to him in his work with the Board. Members paid tribute to Mr. Kane for his work since the Board was established and wished him well in his new position.

**27/2004**

**SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Mr. M. Rogan, Assistant Chief Executive, addressed members briefly and then introduced the two A/Clinical Directors who were also in attendance – Dr. Ian Daly and Dr. Sheila McGauran.

Slide presentations were then given by Mr. Rogan, Dr. Daly and Dr. McGauran which covered the following areas:-

- Overview of the three mental health sectors in the South Western Area Health Board.
- Service challenges in these areas.
- Ways in which these challenges are being met currently.
- Homeless mentally ill.
- Funding inequalities, including comparisons with other health boards nationally.
- Demographic and activity data, including comparisons with other health boards nationally.
- Future capital investment requirements for the mental health services in the South Western Area Health Board area as a result of recent overall population increase and increasing elderly population.
- Specific information regarding the Kildare/West Wicklow mental health service, including per capita funding available for mental health services in this area, which is the lowest nationally.

During the presentation the speakers thanked members for their support regarding the disposal of lands at St. Loman's Hospital and the disposal and development of two properties in Kilcock.

Discussion then followed to which Ald. M. Mooney, Cllr. C. McGrath, Dr. S. Barry, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. C. Lynch, Ms. M. Hoban, Cllr. G. McGuire and Cllr. F. O'Loughlin contributed and to which the Deputy C.E.O., Assistant Chief Executive and Dr. I. Daly responded as follows:-

- Board members' sustained interest in the mental health services was acknowledged.
- The hard work and dedication of staff in the mental health services was acknowledged and the need to maintain staff morale in the current challenging circumstances was highlighted.
- The need for additional resources, particularly for the Kildare/West Wicklow area, was re-iterated. The role of the Eastern Regional Health Authority in representing the service needs to the Department of Health & Children was highlighted.
- It was confirmed that the information presented at the meeting will also be presented to the Mental Health Commission who will be visiting the board's mental health services in the near future.
- Members were informed that it is intended to develop a Consultative Forum within the mental health services which will involve various relevant agencies/bodies.
- Information regarding the transfer of a proportion of patients from one mental health sector to another was further outlined.
- The board's restrictions in relation to keeping within the designated staff ceiling were confirmed.

Following the above, members agreed to submit the following motion to E.R.H.A. - motion signed by members present:-

“That this Authority calls on the Minister for Health and Children to urgently address the chronic underfunding of the South Western Area Health Board Mental Health Services catchment area and, in particular, the Kildare/West Wicklow areas where services are either non-existent or in crisis and, in adopting this motion, the Authority notes that the South Western Area Health Board has by far the lowest per capita funding for mental health services of all the boards in the country.”

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Assistant C.E.O. and Clinical Directors for their presentation and confirmed members’ commitment to seeking greater financial resources for the development of the mental health services in the board’s area.

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