

**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, South Western Area Health Board HQ, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2002, at 2.00 p.m.**

*Present*

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

*Non-Voting Members*

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

Sen. T. Ridge

*In the Chair*

Cllr. C. O'Connor

*Officers in Attendance*

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer  
 Mr. S. O'Brien, Assistant Chief Executive  
 Ms. B. Clarke, Assistant Chief Executive  
 Mr. P. Bennett, Assistant Chief Executive  
 Mr. H. Kane, Assistant Chief Executive  
 Mr. D. Lyons, Director of Finance  
 Mr. T. McMahon, Director of Human Resources  
 Mr. R. Mitchell, Director of Communications  
 Mr. J. Leech, Management Accountant  
 Ms. R. Kavanagh, Senior Manager, Operations  
 Ms. C. Cuffe, Senior Manager, Operations  
 Mr. R. Healy, Board Secretary  
 Mr. S. Murphy, Manager, Operations  
 Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, CEO's Office  
 Ms. C. Armstrong, Administrative Support, CEO's Office

**41/2002****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. Charter of Rights for Older People**

I would like to notify members of the launch of a Charter of Rights for Older People in Residential Care in the three Area Health Boards in the Eastern Region. This launch takes place in Brú Chaoimhín, Cork Street, next Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2002, at 3.00 p.m.

**2. Board Visit**

Please note that a visit to Sterile Technologies Ireland Ltd. will take place on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2002.

Members are to meet up in the Sheldon Park Hotel first. As this is non-health service organisation I would like to draw members' attention to the **11.00 a.m.** start time as a mini-bus will be used to take members from the hotel to the company's facilities for a tour of the site.

Full details will be forwarded to you in the next few days.

Following Chairman's Business, Cllr. T. Cullen requested that he receive a written response to the motion which he had tabled for the meeting. This was agreed.

Following the Report on Services for Adult Homeless People, the Chairman informed members that a Joint Standing Committee Meeting on Orthodontics would take place on Tuesday, 16th April, 2002 at 11.00 a.m. in Cherry Orchard Hospital.

**42/2002****MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETINGS HELD ON 27TH FEBRUARY, 2002 AND 5TH MARCH, 2002**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 27th February, 2002, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Mr. P. Aspell.

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 5th March, 2002, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy, subject to the following amendment:-

Ms. M. Hoban requested that the minutes of the meeting of 5th March, 2002, be amended to reflect that she asked for clarification on the level of funding provided by our Board to Cuan Mhuire, Athy. This was agreed following further discussion on this matter to which Ms. M. Hoban, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. J. Reilly, Dr. M. Gueret and Cllr. C. O'Connor contributed.

43/2002

**QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

On a proposal by Ms. M. Hoban, seconded by Ms. A. Harris, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

**1. Cllr. Catherine Byrne**

“Could the board give details on the renovations happening to Parnell Road Health Centre?”

**Reply:**

New flooring has recently been installed throughout the Health Centre. New seating has been provided in the waiting area and the maintenance staff are currently in the process of erecting wall/railing at the centre. Estimates are being sought with regard to landscaping the health centre grounds and this will proceed when the contract has been awarded.

**2. Cllr. Catherine Byrne**

“Due to the redevelopment of St Michael's Estate, what is the future of the Health Centre on Emmet Road, Inchicore? Are there plans to place a larger health centre on the site with better facilities?”

**Reply:**

Following discussions with Dublin City Council, the South Western Area Health Board has agreed to make the site on which the health centre for Inchicore is built available for the overall development of St. Michael's Estate. This is contingent on Dublin City Council replacing the existing health centre for the Inchicore area.

At a minimum it is proposed that the new facility will continue to provide existing services, but there will also be scope to include other services which the Board may identify as appropriate in consultation with the local community and agencies.

The new facility is due to come on stream in 2004. Phasing of the project will allow the existing health centre to remain in site until these services can be transferred into the new building.

**3. Cllr. Catherine Byrne**

“Regarding the waiting lists for Inter Country Adoptions, what was the exact number of assessments carried out last year? What percentage of assessments were carried out per social worker? To-date, this current year, what is the exact number of applications for assessment?”

**Reply:**

The number of assessments carried out in 2001 was 139, of which 137 were approved and 2 were refused.

On average, 15 assessments were completed per social worker in 2001.

To date, in 2002, 40 assessments have been approved and a further 33 assessments have been allocated to social workers.

**4. Dr. Siobhán Barry**

Re: Mental Health Services

“Could the CEO comment on:-

The progress to date made on the collaborative social housing project between SWAHB and partners in the voluntary sector to provide 12 independent living units, and indicate the time frame for completion of same (ERHA Service Plan 2002, page 118)?”

**Reply:**

The South Western Area Health Board, in conjunction with our voluntary partners, Celbridge Mental Health Association, are developing 12 independent social housing units adjacent to Grove House, Celbridge. The transfer of lands has been agreed by the Eastern Regional Health Authority and the relevant legal arrangements are in progress. The units, which consist of 12 one-bedroom self-contained apartments, should be completed by the end of 2002. These units will be available to individuals with mental health difficulties who are included on the Co. Kildare housing list.

**5. Dr. Siobhán Barry**

Re: Health Service National Performance Indicators

Could the CEO comment on:-

- The numbers of services to date, within S.W.A.H.B. i.e. primary care, ambulance services, mental health, child & adolescent health acute services, child care, older persons, physical & sensory disability, intellectual disability services, addiction services, services for travelling people, services for homeless people, services for asylum seekers where these National Performance Indicators have been brought to staff attention, for the purposes of implementation.
- Whether the Mental Health performance indicators (Section 5) enable one to ascertain a true picture of mental health services attainment, i.e. are the indicators relevant, reliable, responsive and research-based?
- Whether systems are in place within S.W.A.H.B. to measure improvements in health and social function to be assessed in tandem with service input measurements?

**Reply:**

- The Chief Executive Officers of the Health Boards indicated their commitment to the development of Performance Indicators (P.I.s) by establishing a National Performance Indicators Project Team in November 1999. This team was

representative of each of the Health Boards and the Eastern Regional Health Authority. This Project Team recognised that in order for the Performance

Indicator Project to succeed it was essential that a culture of understanding and openness to a performance management process be encouraged.

Prior to this process there were three sets of Performance Indicators – Department of Health & Children, Inter-Board and Eastern Regional Health Authority. The Project Team agreed the development of a single unified set of National Performance Indicators.

Working groups were set up for 11 agreed care areas as follows:

- Health Promotion
- Overall Health Indicators
- Primary Care
- Acute Services
- Ambulance Services
- Mental Health Services
- Child & Adolescent Health
- Child Care Services
- Older Persons
- Disability Services
- Social Inclusion:-
  - Addiction Services
  - Travellers' Health
  - Homeless Persons
  - Asylum Seekers

These groups had representatives from all boards. For example, the Southern Health Board chaired Mental Health and the South Western Area Health Board chaired Disabilities.

In early 2002 a draft set of National Performance Indicators was issued. These were circulated to the Directors of Care who in turn consulted with the Managers of Services, i.e. Older Persons, Children & Families, Disabilities, etc.

They were also discussed with and circulated to other service managers who have responsibility for the implementation.

- An inter-board group convened by the Southern Health Board with representatives invited from each Health Board agreed the Performance Indicators for Mental Health. Martin Rogan, Director for Mental Health & Addiction, represented the South Western Area Health Board at each of the meetings.

Given the complexity and scope of modern mental health services it would be difficult to select a short list of P.I.s which could accurately ascertain a 'true picture' of all activities and services. The absence of an integrated I.T. system within many mental health services was also taken into account. Recognising the difficulty associated with collecting information in a timely and efficient manner, it was felt that a set of common P.I.s to which each mental health service could commit would be most useful in the first instance. There is no limitation on any

service which is in a position to return any additional data which they feel relevant.

Performance Indicators alone will yield little information. They must be considered in conjunction with additional information sources - patient satisfaction ratings, resource availability, morbidity data, socio economic influences, geographic factors and service access issues, all of which impact on service performance. Services have the opportunity to append a commentary note to assist analysis.

The nine mental health P.I.s give a high level view of service activity which can be compared with similar services throughout Ireland. The rationale for each P.I. is included in the materials circulated. As with all research, the validity and reliability of the Performance Indicators will be dependant on the quality of the information returned.

The information required is largely available from data gathered by the Health Research Board but the frequency of reporting increased. To build an accurate and comprehensive picture of mental health service and the performance of providers a broad range of factors and influences need to be examined, however, a number of services felt unable to provide the necessary information within the time-frames required.

- It is recognised that the work to date on the set of National Performance Indicators is at a relatively early evolutionary stage, however, the current set, in addition to the P.I.s on each Care Group, does include some overall Health Indicators.

The E.R.H.A. has a programme of evaluation across each Care Group outlined in their 2002 Service Plan. The evaluations include a review of existing service inputs and link with health/social improvements, examples of which would be the Homefirst Project, St James's Hospital and the review of residential services in the Disabilities and Older Persons care groups.

Also the Department of Public Health has done specific work on measuring health improvements in relation to outcomes for cancer patients.

There is an ongoing need to develop systems within the South Western Area Health Board to measure improvements in health and social function. However, our Directors of Care, together with local management teams, are continuously looking at quality initiatives in this area.

## **6. Dr. Siobhán Barry**

Re: Homeless Preventative Strategy (published jointly by Depts. Of Health & Children; Justice & Law Reform; Education & Science; Housing & Urban Renewal, February 2002)

“Could the CEO comment on whether, given the 6 month implementation deadline for this strategy, systems are currently in place to comply with the Actions Required in the areas of People Leaving Mental Health Facilities (Chapter 4), People Leaving Acute Hospitals (Chapter 5) and Young People Leaving Care (Chapter 6)?”

**Reply:**

With regard to the monitoring of the measures relating to persons leaving residential mental health services, acute hospitals and young persons leaving care, the health boards are being asked to make regular six monthly reports to the Department of Health and Children on the implementation of the measures and evaluating their effectiveness. Specifically, in relation to young persons leaving care, the strategy states that health boards will develop and implement aftercare protocols for all young people leaving care, not later than six months from the publication of the strategy.

In response to the Youth Homelessness Strategy, the Eastern Regional Health Authority has recently completed a two-year strategic plan to address the issues of youth homelessness. The development and implementation of aftercare protocols is an integral part of that strategy.

In relation to people leaving residential mental health services and acute hospitals, meetings will take place over the coming months between homeless services in the South Western Area Health Board and the various institutions to ensure that the required formal admission and discharge policies are agreed and implemented.

**44/2002****REPORT 6/2002 – SERVICES FOR ADULT HOMELESS PEOPLE IN THE SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD**

Mr. H. Kane, Assistant Chief Executive, presented Report 6/2002 to members [copy filed with official minute].

Discussion followed to which Cllr. C. McGrath, Dr. S. Barry, Dr. M. Gueret, Ald. M. Mooney, Cllr. E. Byrne, Dr. K. Harkin, Ms. N. Harvey, Cllr. J. Reilly, Cllr. D. Tipping, Cllr. C. Byrne, Cllr. C. O'Connor, Ms. M. Hoban and Mr. P. Aspell contributed and to which Mr. Kane and the C.E.O. responded as follows:-

- Local authorities have the statutory responsibility to provide accommodation for people who are homeless, the health board's role is to provide healthcare support. In this regard, local authorities are the lead agency in bringing together the various bodies who would have input into homeless persons' overall needs.
- The issue of "matching up" homeless persons to the most appropriate available bed was noted.
- The issue of mental health patients who become homeless is being addressed through the establishment of a specific multi-disciplinary team for our Board's Dublin city catchment area.
- A member's suggestion regarding streamlining the number of personnel/disciplines who collectively would be involved with the care of homeless persons was noted. This is particularly relevant for those persons who have addiction/alcohol problems.
- Members will be updated regarding forthcoming meetings between our board and the local authorities concerning the issue of services for homeless persons.

It was agreed to adopt the report.

**45/2002****CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

The Chief Executive read Report No. 7/2002 to members (copy filed with official minute):

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

- Addiction Services Update
- Naas General Hospital
- Eastern Community Works
- Health Services in West Wicklow
- Clondalkin Mental Health Centre
- Primary Care Task Force
- National Physical & Sensory Disability Database
- Barretstown Gang Camp Grant
- New Mental Health Commission
- Report on Stimulant Drinks
- National Treatment Purchase Team
- Health Research Programme Grant Awards

Discussion followed to which Cllr. D. Tipping, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. C. McGrath, Ms. M. Hoban, Dr. K. Harkin, and Cllr. C. O'Connor contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded as follows:-

- The new addiction treatment service in Clondalkin will be available to clients in the Lucan area.
- The schedule/locations for the additional mobile drugs clinic for our Board's area will be clarified at Standing Committee.
- Staff will continue to actively pursue the issue of securing alternative accommodation for the Clondalkin Mental Health Centre.
- The issue of the development of a policy regarding the possible re-organisation of the various schemes for repairs to houses of older persons to be taken up with the other agencies involved, e.g. local authorities. Members will be updated in this regard.

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

**46/2002****MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

In response to some queries raised earlier in the meeting, the C.E.O. clarified the following:-

- The procedures whereby funding may be allocated to organisations were outlined.
- It was agreed that a report will be drawn up on a quarterly basis for members concerning grants to be given to voluntary organisations.
- It was agreed that issues raised regarding Cuan Mhuire to be dealt with at Standing Committee.

**47/2002****PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

On a proposal by Mr. P. Aspell, seconded by Cllr. C. McGrath, the progress report from the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee meeting dated 26th March, 2002, was adopted.

On a proposal by Dr. B. Murphy, seconded by Ms. M. Hoban, the progress report from the Disabilities, Mental Health and Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee meeting dated 21st March, 2002, was adopted.

**48/2002****PROGRESS REPORT FROM FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING**

On a proposal by Mr. P. Aspell, seconded by Ms. M. Hoban, the progress report from the Finance and Property Committee meeting dated 28th March, 2002, was adopted.

On a proposal by Cllr. C. McGrath, seconded by Mr. P. Aspell, the Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2001, were adopted.

It was agreed to obtain further information for Cllr. C. Byrne regarding an entry in the Annual Financial Statements concerning an organisation in her area.

On a proposal by Cllr. C. McGrath, seconded by Mr. P. Aspell, the lease of premises at Broomhill Road, Tallaght, was approved..

**49/2002****PROGRESS REPORT FROM JOINT FINANCE & PROPERTY AND PROTOCOL & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE MEETING**

On a proposal by Cllr. C. McGrath, seconded by Ms. M. Hoban, the progress report from the Joint Finance & Property Committee and Protocol & Procedures Committee meeting dated 1st March, 2002, was adopted.

It was agreed to convene another joint meeting soon. In response to a query from Cllr. C. McGrath, the C.E.O. outlined progress to date regarding the position of Property Manager for our Board.

**50/2002****NOTICE OF MOTION**

*Agenda Item 10.1* The motion listed on the agenda in the name of Sen. T. Ridge was deferred, at her request, to the May Board Meeting.

*Agenda Item 10.2* The following motion was proposed by Cllr. E. Byrne and seconded by Cllr. C. McGrath:-

“This Board views with alarm the proposed paltry increase of 3.8% in the medical card threshold particularly when you contrast this with the 9.4% average increase in Social Welfare.

This will result in large numbers of people on Social Welfare losing their entitlement and to dissuade people from taking up low paid employment.

That childcare costs are not recognised as expenditure in calculating for Medical Card entitlement is of such scandalous proportions as to necessitate an urgent review of the methodology used to prepare the Medical Card Guidelines.”

Discussion followed to which Cllr. E. Byrne and Cllr. C. McGrath contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded.

Motion was agreed.

**Agenda Item 10.3** The motion listed on the agenda in the name of Cllr. T. Cullen was deferred for direct written response to the member, at his request. (Agreed following Chairman’s Business).

#### **51/2002**

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The items of correspondence, as referred to in the Chief Executive’s report, were noted by members.

#### **52/2002**

#### **SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS (APRIL 2002)**

The schedule of visits for Board Members and Standing Committee meetings for April 2002, which had been circulated with the agenda papers, was noted by members.

#### **53/2002**

#### **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The May meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 7th May, 2002, at 6.00 p.m. in the Baltinglass District Hospital, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow.

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

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**CHAIRMAN**