

SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD

**Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held
in the Day Care Centre, St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, Co. Kildare,
on Tuesday, 2nd July, 2002, at 2.00 p.m.**

Present

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| Mr. P. Aspell | Dr. S. Barry |
| Cllr. C. Byrne | Cllr. E. Byrne |
| Cllr. T. Cullen | Dr. M. Gueret |
| Ms. A. Harris | Ms. M. Hoban |
| Cllr. C. McGrath | Cllr. M. Miley |
| Ald. M. Mooney | Dr. B. Murphy |
| Mr. M. Murphy | Cllr. C. O'Connor, T.D. |
| Cllr. S. Ó Fearghail, T.D. | Cllr. D. Tipping |
| Cllr. J. Wall, T.D. | |

Non-Voting Members

Mr. G. McGuire

Apologies

Dr. K. Harkin

In the Chair

Cllr. C. O'Connor, T.D.

Officers in Attendance

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

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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. Annual General Meeting & Special Board Meeting

I wish to inform members that the Board's Annual General Meeting will take place after the E.R.H.A. Annual General Meeting. The South Western Area Health Board Annual General Meeting will now be held in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, on Friday, 5th July, 2002, at 2.00 p.m. The A.G.M. will be followed directly by a Special Board Meeting at 2.30 p.m. regarding the Board's Service and Capital Developments.

2. Standing Committees

In relation to the two Standing Committees, I would like to advise members that anyone who wishes to change from their current committee is asked to make an arrangement with a member of the other Standing Committee and inform the Secretary of the Board of the agreed change by the end of July.

3. Joint Standing Committee

I wish to inform members that a Joint Standing Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17th July, 2002, at 11.00 a.m. in Bridge House, Cherry Orchard, Ballyfermot.

The Chairman then made a presentation to Mr. Michael Murphy on his transfer to the East Coast Area Health Board with effect from 5th July, 2002. The Chairman thanked Mr. Murphy for his contribution to the work of the Board over the past two years. Mr. Murphy expressed his thanks to the members and staff of the South Western Area Health Board and indicated that he would still be involved with the development of services for the intellectually disabled across the three Area Health Boards. He advised members that Mr. Joe Fallon will be replacing him on the South Western Area Health Board.

Discussion followed relating to a query raised by Dr. S. Barry regarding the remit of the Standing Committees in the South Western Area Health Board in comparison with the Eastern Regional Health Authority. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Protocol and Procedures Committee again and that Dr. Barry be invited to attend this meeting.

Condolences were expressed to Ms. A. Harris on the recent death of her mother-in-law.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 4TH JUNE, 2002.

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 4th June, 2002, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Mr. P. Aspell, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy.

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QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

On a proposal by Cllr. M. Miley, seconded by Mr. P. Aspell, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

1. Dr. Kieran Harkin

“Could the C.E.O. please outline the reasons why the Stabilisation Unit in Cherry Orchard Hospital has not yet opened? Could the C.E.O. please explain what steps he intends taking to open this unit and give a realistic estimate of when he expects this unit to open? Could the C.E.O. please advise if patients assessed as being in need of such a unit would be eligible to be sent abroad by the S.W.A.H.B. to receive this service under European Community Social Security Regulations 1408/71 and 574/72 as amended or any similar such regulations?”

Reply:

A need was identified some time ago for a residential service that would focus on the stabilisation of drug using clients who are attending treatment programmes on an in-patient basis. This service has not been able to go ahead due to the difficulty in the recruitment of staff nurses. In order to operate the unit on a 24 hour basis over seven days, the minimum requirement would be twelve to fourteen full-time equivalent posts of staff nurses. We are continuing our endeavours to recruit the necessary staff for this service.

In relation to the E.U. regulations, we are currently looking at whether these apply in this matter.

2. Dr. Siobhán Barry

“Re: Vacant posts in Public Health Nursing, Community Care Social Work, Speech & Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy.

Could the C.E.O. inform the Board, and give a breakdown of the cost savings this year to date engendered by the inability to recruit in these areas, assuming salaries are at mid point of relevant salary scales?”

Reply:

There are no cost savings arising from permanent post vacancies in the Board’s area.

The Board utilises existing funds to provide services to the relevant care groups where vacancies have arisen, through grant aid to other agencies; through filling posts on a temporary basis with other relevant personnel; or by enhancing and improving service access, or by any other appropriate means to meet service needs.

3. Dr. Siobhán Barry

“Re: S.W.A.H.B. Forum on Care for Older Persons.

Could the C.E.O. give an update on the implementation of the recommendations of this group?”

Reply:

The Forum on Care for Older Persons was convened in June 2000 by the Chief Executives of the South Western Area Health Board, St. James's Hospital and AMINCH, Tallaght. The terms of reference were:-

- To ensure a system of integrated care is developed between the main service providers in the South Western Area Health Board.
- To ensure that this system is client and quality focused, co-ordinated, integrated and based on a 'continuum of care' model which includes the three main phases, namely pre-admission, admission and discharge.
- To provide a forum for identifying and developing plans to meet future needs, for the exchange of knowledge and for the promotion of good practice.

A smaller working group was formed from the overall membership with a view to preparing the report for reference back to the entire group.

The draft report issued earlier this year and comments were requested from the CEOs and the members of the full group. A few replies have been received. It is intended to send a reminder with a closing date. The chairperson will then convene a meeting of the working group to approve and sign off the report.

When the report is adopted it will then be sent to the relevant agencies, including the South Western Area Health Board, for implementation. A number of the issues in the draft report are already being addressed and will be encompassed in the strategy for services for older people which will be presented to the board members over the coming months.

4. Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

"To ask the C.E.O. to confirm plans to provide accommodation and services directly for homeless persons in the Tallaght area; will he appreciate the need for such provision in the town itself; will he outline discussions he has had with South Dublin County Council, Tallaght Homeless Advice Unit and other agencies; and will he make a statement?"

Reply:

The provision of accommodation for homeless people is the responsibility of the local authority. The role of the health board is to meet the health and welfare needs of homeless people. Our board supports the development of local responses to meet local needs, subject to the choice of the individual.

The Government strategy – *Homelessness – An Integrated Strategy* – gives the local authorities the lead role in bringing together all those who provide services for homeless people, both from the statutory and non-statutory sector, to ensure appropriate responses are put in place in each local authority area. The Homeless Co-ordinator in South Dublin County Council has convened two meetings to address the issues in its own area. Participating in these meetings are representatives from South

Dublin County Council, the South Western Area Health Board, Tallaght Homeless Advice Unit, Clondalkin Partnership, Simon Community and the Prison Service.

The need for emergency accommodation in both Tallaght and Clondalkin has been clearly identified at these meetings and South Dublin County Council has agreed to source both short-term and long-term emergency accommodation. Representatives from the South Western Area Health Board will be meeting separately with Tallaght Homeless Advice Unit and Clondalkin Partnership to discuss in detail the health and welfare requirements of homeless people in these areas and to put in place appropriate responses.

5. Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

“To ask the C.E.O. to outline action he is taking to improve the image of the houses in the ownership of the Board in Main St., Tallaght; will he confirm his future plans for the houses and make a statement?”

Reply:

The services provided at 515 Main Street, Tallaght, include counselling, outreach, nursing and administration services.

In 1998 the Board was granted planning permission to develop its site at 514 and 515 Main Street, Tallaght, as an addiction centre. This planning permission was appealed successfully to An Bord Pleanála and the planning permission was overruled. In light of this, the premises at 514 Main Street has remained vacant and cannot be used by our services.

Since that time the Board has been pursuing a significant number of sites in the Tallaght area. We have looked at a number of buildings and have been in discussion with a number of landlords but unfortunately we have been unsuccessful in our attempts to rent, lease or purchase any suitable buildings. Our intention is to sell both houses to fund the development of an addiction centre when one becomes available. The advice available is that both properties should be sold together to maximise their value.

In 2001, as an interim measure, the South Western Area Health Board through our Maintenance Department cultivated the front and rear gardens of both houses. The Board also installed PVC windows and doors in 514 Main Street. Both 514 and 515 Main Street are maintained and will continue to be maintained on a regular basis by our Maintenance Department until such time as we are successful in acquiring new premises for an addiction centre for the Tallaght area.

I have asked the Area Operations Manager to review the appearance of both buildings on an ongoing basis.

6. Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

“To ask the C.E.O. to confirm plans for the further development of the Board’s services in the general Tallaght area; will he outline any proposals for new services and make a statement?”

Reply:

The South Western Area Health Board provides a wide range of services both directly and in partnership with other public agencies and voluntary organisations in the Tallaght area.

There are four Health Centres in Tallaght which provide a wide range of services: Millbrook Lawns; Mary Mercer Health Centre, Jobstown; Brookfield and Killinarden.

Services provided in these health centres include: Mental Health, Dental Services, Speech & Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Social Work, Public Health Nursing, Community Welfare, Home Help, Medical and Administration. General Practitioner services are also provided from Mary Mercer Health Centre, Brookfield and Killinarden. Addiction services are provided through Millbrook Lawns.

Members will be aware of the Board's plans for the redevelopment of Millbrook Lawns. This is one of our major capital projects and representations are made on an ongoing basis to the Eastern Regional Health Authority regarding the need to redevelop this Health Centre.

As regards services for Older Persons, the Board hopes to extend the day-care facilities available in Glenview, Tymon North and Kilnamanagh. We are also working with the Social Economy Unit in Bolbrook to develop a comprehensive training programme for home care attendants. A privately funded extended care facility is being developed in Kiltipper Road and the Board is engaged in discussions with the owner of this facility to utilise extended care beds for patients with Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease.

As regards services for children and families, the Board's staff work very closely with a wide range of voluntary organisations in the Tallaght area in addition to providing our statutory service. We work closely with Barnardos on a wide range of services and hope to extend the Lorien addiction service which provides family support services for children and adults where there are addiction problems in the family. There are also plans for a domestic violence refuge and we are in discussions with South Dublin County Council regarding a suitable site for this facility. We are also working with the voluntary committee of this refuge in developing outreach services and establishing an interagency forum. On an ongoing basis the Board delivers and tailors services in a flexible way to meet the diverse needs of families in crisis. Senior officers from the Board and South Dublin County Council also meet regularly to discuss joint service provision to families in crisis.

The Board is working closely with St. John of God's in providing residential and day-care services for adults with learning disabilities. The development of this service is at an advanced stage. Our staff are also working with the staff of St. Joseph's Special School and parent's representatives to submit proposals for the development of services to meet the special needs of children with mild learning disabilities. We are also continuously working to enhance the service provided by Enable Ireland in Tymon North for children with physical disabilities.

A number of Health Promotion staff will be moving to offices in Broomhill in the near future and will be working on a number of Heart Health initiatives for the

Board's area which will include Tallaght. The Board is also working with Tallaght Hospital and the Irish Heart Foundation in developing Happy Heart Initiatives for Tallaght. Funding has been made available to start this programme. Other initiatives which the Health Promotion staff will be developing for the Tallaght area will be nutrition education, support in smoking cessation, physical activity programmes, support groups and information evenings on Healthy Heart.

The Board is represented on the RAPID implementation team for West Tallaght and on the County Development Board and we are involved in developing strategies for service enhancement within these two groups. As a result of our involvement on these programmes, we are developing closer working relationships with the community and other state agencies in areas of mutual interest and concern.

The Board will continue to support existing services in the Tallaght area and in partnership with other public agencies, voluntary groups and the community continuously strive to improve and enhance these services where possible.

Child Care Services

New Services

Under the Homeless Initiative, a Youth Multidisciplinary Team for the Tallaght/Crumlin area was approved during 2001. It is hoped that recruitment of staff for this team will be finalised during 2002.

Funding of €200,000 has been approved for a joint project between Barnardos and the South Western Area Health Board. This initiative is titled "The Brookfield Project" and is a joint project with the Drugs Task Force to work with families with one or more parents abusing drugs.

Further Developments

Under the Homeless Initiative, funding of €57,000 has been allocated to the Mater Dei Counselling Service for the expansion of their Tallaght Service. This involves increasing the service in Tallaght from half to full-time.

The Children & Families Training & Development Unit is currently re-locating to the 1st Floor, Unit 4044, Citywest Business Campus, Naas Road, Dublin 24. This unit will provide training under two broad categories namely, Children First (specific) and Children & Families (generic).

The Health Promotion Department is re-locating to 52 Broom, Broomhill, Tallaght in August 2002. This is the result of a successful recruitment campaign during 2001 and their current premises will not facilitate the additional staff.

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SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD – ANNUAL REPORT 2001

The C.E.O. outlined the background to our Board's Draft Annual Report 2001 [copy filed with official minute] which had been circulated with the agenda papers and invited members to give their comments and views on same.

Members congratulated those involved in preparing the report. Discussion followed to which Dr. S. Barry, Cllr. E. Byrne, Dr. B. Murphy, Ms. M. Hoban, Cllr. D. Tipping, Mr. M.

Murphy, Mr. G. McGuire, Cllr. C. McGrath, Cllr. M. Miley, Ms. A. Harris, and Cllr. S. O Fearghail contributed.

The C.E.O. and Assistant Chief Executives clarified some queries and noted suggestions put forward by members.

On a proposal by Dr. B. Murphy, seconded by Cllr. M. Miley, members adopted the Annual Report 2001.

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C.E.O.'S REPORT

The C.E.O. read Report No. 11/2002 to members [copy filed with official minute].

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

- Speech & Language Therapists - Update
- Meetings with Local Authorities
- Naas General Hospital
- Partnership Process – South Western Area Health Board
- Directory of Services
- Information Commissioner's Report
- Data Protection Commissioner's Report
- Primary Care Steering Group
- Funding for Orthodontic Treatment

Members thanked the C.E.O. for his report. Discussion followed to which Dr. M. Gueret, Dr. S. Barry, Cllr. C. McGrath, Dr. B. Murphy, Mr. G. McGuire, Mr. M. Murphy, Ms. M. Hoban, Cllr. D. Tipping, Cllr. C. Byrne, Cllr. M. Miley and Cllr. E. Byrne contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded as follows:-

- Members will be kept updated through Standing Committee regarding progress with the issues raised re speech and language therapy services.
- A report re orthodontic services, including the additional national funding for same, will be brought to members at a future Standing Committee meeting.

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

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MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

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

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PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

On a proposal by Mr. P. Aspell, seconded by Ms. A. Harris, the progress reports from the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee meetings dated 31st May, 2002, and 13th June, 2002, were adopted.

On a proposal by Ms. M. Hoban, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy, the progress report from the Disabilities, Mental Health & Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee meeting dated 20th June, 2002, was adopted.

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PROGRESS REPORT FROM FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

On a proposal by Mr. P. Aspell, seconded by Cllr. C. Byrne, the progress report from the Finance & Property Committee meeting dated 13th June, 2002, was adopted.

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PROGRESS REPORT FROM JOINT MEETING OF FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE AND PROTOCOL & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

On a proposal by Dr. B. Murphy, seconded by Ald. M. Mooney, the progress report from the Joint Meeting of the Finance & Property Committee and Protocol & Procedures Committee dated 13th June, 2002, was adopted.

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PROGRESS REPORT FROM PROTOCOL & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE MEETING

On a proposal by Cllr. S. Ó Fearghail, seconded by Cllr. D. Tipping, the progress report from the Protocol & Procedures Committee meeting dated 13th June, 2002, was adopted.

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SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS (JULY 2002)

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

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DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Board will be held on Friday, 5th July, 2002, at 2.00 p.m. in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare. This will be followed by a Special Board Meeting at 2.30 p.m.

The September meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 3rd September, 2002, at 2.00 p.m. in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.

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

CHAIRMAN