

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 H.Q.,
Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, on Tuesday, 4th June, 2002, at 2.00 p.m.**

Present

Mr. P. Aspell
Mr. G. Brady
Cllr. E. Byrne
Dr. K. Harkin
Cllr. C. McGrath
Ald. M. Mooney
Cllr. C. O'Connor
Sen. T. Ridge

Dr. S. Barry
Cllr. C. Byrne
Cllr. T. Cullen
Ms. M. Hoban
Cllr. M. Miley
Dr. B. Murphy
Cllr. J. Reilly

Non-Voting Members

Ms. N. Harvey

Mr. G. McGuire

Apologies

Ms. A. Harris

In the Chair

Sen. T. Ridge

Officers in Attendance

Mr. P. Donnelly, Chief Executive Officer
Mr. S. O'Brien, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. P. Bennett, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. H. Kane, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. W. Quinn, Deputy Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. D. Lyons, Director of Finance
Mr. T. McMahon, Director of Human Resources
Ms. M. Rogan, Director for Mental Health & Addiction Services
Ms. C. Brogan, Resource Officer for Suicide and Mental Health Promotion
Mr. R. Kavanagh, Senior Manager, Operations
Ms. C. Cuffe, Senior Manager, Operations
Ms. P. Daly, Communications Officer
Ms. P. Dempsey, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office
Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office

Prior to Chairman's Business, Cllr. T. Cullen advised members that he intends to raise, at E.R.H.A. level, the issue of lack of capital funding in the Wicklow area.

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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. Board Meeting

With members' permission, I would hope to finish up the business of today's meeting as close as possible to 3.30 p.m. in order to allow members the opportunity to attend the launch of the report on "Survey on Dental Health in Special National Schools" which is taking place in the Board Room in Dr. Steevens' Hospital this afternoon at approximately 4.30 p.m. This is being launched by the East Coast Area Health Board on behalf of the three Area Health Boards.

2. Annual General Meeting

As agreed last year, the Board's Annual General Meeting should take place after the E.R.H.A. A.G.M. This year our A.G.M. will be held in the Board Room, Dr. Steevens' Hospital on Friday, 5th July 2002, at 2.00 p.m. The monthly Board Meeting on the first Tuesday of the month will take place as scheduled at 2.00 p.m. on 2nd July at St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy, Co. Kildare.

3 Committee Meetings

I would like draw members' attention to the schedule of meetings in the agenda papers and in particular to note that a number of committee meetings take place on Thursday, 13th June, 2002, starting with a Standing Committee meeting in Athy in the morning followed in the afternoon by three consecutive committee meetings concerning Finance & Property and Protocol & Procedures. Please refer to your Board Papers for the times of these various meetings.

Following Chairman's Business, Cllr. J. Reilly's comments re the scheduling of meetings were noted.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 7TH MAY, 2002

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 7th May, 2002, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Mr. P. Aspell, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy.

Dr. S. Barry's comments regarding the report on Kildare Mental Health Services referred to in the reply to her Board Question were noted and the C.E.O. responded accordingly. It was agreed that any reports commissioned by our Board would be communicated to the Board when published.

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QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

1. Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

“To ask the C.E.O. to confirm his plans for Capital Expenditure at St. Loman’s in Palmerstown; will he outline the schedule being followed and make a statement?”

Reply:

It is proposed to develop the existing St. Loman's Hospital campus by demolishing the present obsolete structures (in a phased fashion) and replacing them with new, purpose-built, autonomous units which in their sum will form a 'Health Park'. The scale of this proposal is such that it will necessitate three distinct phases; these phases are known as Phase A, Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Phase A of the development, which includes the provision of temporary accommodation for patients in Unit F, has already commenced. These new temporary facilities will be available in late August 2002. Phase A of the development also includes services such as mains water supply, gas, high-power electric cables, services roads and sewerage schemes being brought onto the site as well as the demolition of the existing obsolete Unit F following the transfer of patients to the new temporary accommodation.

The demolition of Unit F will free up the southern half of the campus and will allow the commencement of Phase 1 of the development subject to the necessary capital funding being made available. All of the services in St. Loman’s at present will then be relocated to the new units on completion of Phase 1. The target completion date for Phase 1 is late 2004.

The development of St. Loman’s Hospital campus is top priority for our Board and we are continuing in our discussions with the E.R.H.A. to identify the necessary capital funding for same.

2. Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

“To ask the C.E.O. to report on his efforts to secure a site for the development of an Addiction Centre in Tallaght; will he confirm his plans in the matter and make a statement?”

Reply:

The Board is fully committed to the provision of a full Addiction Centre in the Tallaght area. We have been endeavouring over the last number of years to identify a suitable site. This has proved quite difficult due to the property market in the area. As recently as the last two months we were able to identify two potential sites that were available on a leasing basis. However, following a period of protracted negotiations the landlord in both cases chose other tenants. We are also currently in

negotiation around a site in the Tallaght area, which is proving quite protracted and complex. We are back in discussions with the site holder and are awaiting their decision. I would like to add that South Dublin County Council have been very supportive and helpful to the Board in its quest for a site. We are constantly in touch with Auctioneers in relation to premises that might come on the market.

Update/Addiction Services Tallaght Area

The South Western Area Health Board currently provides treatment services to in excess of five hundred and twenty three persons in the Tallaght area. Our services are provided through a combination of local Addiction Centres, local prescribing clinics that are based in a number of Community Projects and through General Practitioners and Community Pharmacists under the Methadone Protocol 1998. In addition the Board have a Mobile Unit which provides full treatment services located on the grounds of Tallaght Hospital.

Details of numbers in treatment are as follows: -

Addiction Centres

Millbrook Lawns Health Centre	45
Jobstown Addiction Centre	20
Mobile Bus	50

Scripting Projects/Community Projects

Brookfield	16
Jobstown	42
St. Aengus	44
CARP	75
Fettercairn	30

General Practitioners

Level II	96
Level I	105

Total number in Treatment 523

Currently there are 3 Level II and 12 Level I General Practitioners working with us in the Tallaght area. This reflects a significant increase over the years which is due to the excellent work of the G.P Co-ordinator in the area. The board is fully committed to the principle that treatment can and should be provided in Community Services with structured training and guidelines in place.

Waiting List

Following the opening of the Addiction Centre in Jobstown and the siting of the Mobile Bus in Tallaght Hospital coupled with a number of G.Ps moving from Level I to Level II we have been able to significantly reduce the waiting list over the past number of months. I attach details of this waiting list (see Appendix 1) between September 2001 and April 2002 which not only shows a significant decrease in the waiting list and waiting times but also allowed for the management of new persons presenting for assessment during this period. The average waiting time in the Tallaght area has reduced from twelve months down to three months.

APPENDIX 1*Tallaght Waiting List Overview: September 2001 – April 2002*

Month:	No. on Waiting List:	New Assessments:	Commenced in Treatment:	Commenced with GP	Commenced in Satellite Clinic/Bus:	Uncontactable or Self Detox
Sept. 2001	76	7	3	1	2	3
Oct. 2001	59	19	23	8	15	11
Nov. 2001	60	16	13	2	11	4
Dec. 2001	51	7	15	4	11	2
Jan. 2002	43	13	26	16	10	1
Feb. 2002	47	12	8	4	4	3
Mar. 2002	39	8	14	3	11	7
Apr. 2002	37	10	6	0	6	0

3. Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

“To ask the C.E.O. to update the Board on his efforts to progress the development of a new building at Millbrook Lawns Health Centre in Tallaght; will he state what arrangements he is making to facilitate services currently delivered from the Centre, and will he make a statement?”

Reply:

Millbrook Lawns Health Centre was substantially damaged by fire in 1999. As a result, the Mental Health service was relocated to another site in Tallaght and the accommodation available to existing services within the Centre was significantly reduced.

The redevelopment of the Health Centre at Millbrook Lawns is a priority capital project for the South Western Area Health Board. The Eastern Regional Health Authority are fully briefed on the importance of this project and the need for funding to be made available and on this basis a detailed schedule of accommodation based on current and future service needs has been prepared.

To facilitate the ongoing provision of services from the existing Centre, the necessary maintenance, repairs and improvements are being made on an ongoing basis. These include the installation of an integrated fire alarm system, roof repairs and improvements to the electrical system. Essential painting and redecoration work was also carried out. Some extra accommodation was made available as a result of better utilisation of existing space and rooms.

Millbrook Lawns Health Centre currently provides a comprehensive range of services including Public Health Nursing, Developmental Clinics, Dental, Speech & Language

Therapy, Community Welfare, Home Help, Social Work and Addiction Services. Barnardos pre-school services are also provided from Millbrook Lawns.

The South Western Area Health Board will continue to seek the necessary funding for the redevelopment of this Health Centre. We will also continue, in consultation with staff, to ensure that the conditions in the existing Health Centre are maintained to the highest standard possible for the effective delivery of services to the public.

68/2002

REPORT 9/2002 – RESPONDING TO SUICIDE

Mr. Pat Bennett, Assistant Chief Executive, referred to Report 9/2002 [copy filed with official minute] and informed members that a Steering Group has been set up by our Board to work towards the implementation of the National Task Force on Suicide recommendations. He introduced Mr. Martin Rogan, Director for Mental Health & Addiction Services, and Ms. Catherine Brogan, Resource Officer for Suicide and Mental Health Promotion. Mr. Rogan then gave a slide presentation to members summarising Report 9/2002.

Members thanked all involved in preparing the report. Discussion followed to which Cllr. J. Reilly contributed.

Mr. Rogan responded as follows:-

- The website referred to in the presentation has now been debarred.
- The issue of the proportion of legally held versus illegally held firearms used in suicide incidents will be raised with the Garda Inspector on the Steering Group.
- The difficulties which general practitioners may have in recognising contributory factors in potentially vulnerable patients were acknowledged. In this regard, primary care issues are also being examined.

Members noted the report.

69/2002

C.E.O.'S REPORT

The C.E.O. read Report No. 10/2002 to members (copy filed with official minute).

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

- Social Workers Dispute
- Meetings with Local Authorities
- Presentation of Certificates
- Office of Tobacco Control
- Health Promotion
- Interim Report – Strategic Task Force on Alcohol
- Ombudsman Report
- Naas Family and Children Project
- Extra Professional Therapy Training Places
- Back-To-School Clothing and Footwear Scheme

Members thanked the C.E.O. for his report. Discussion followed to which Cllr. J. Reilly and Mr. G. McGuire contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded.

It was agreed that a report on the recent meetings with Local Authorities will be brought to the Board.

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

70/2002

MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

In response to a query raised by Cllr. M. Miley regarding services for older people, the C.E.O. outlined the Board's current and ongoing work in addressing this issue. Members were informed that our Board has sent comments back to the committee which was set up to look at care planning for older people regarding the report that they have drawn up re same. St. James's Hospital and AMINCH, Tallaght, are also to submit comments to the committee regarding the report. It was agreed, following further discussion, that the draft report be brought to Standing Committee for members' information. It was further agreed that this issue will require ongoing and extensive discussions.

71/2002

PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Ms. M. Hoban, the progress report from the Disabilities, Mental Health & Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee meeting dated 16th May, 2002, was adopted.

Cllr. J. Reilly enquired about tabling the KDoc Initiative for a Joint Standing Committee meeting in June. Members were informed that this item had been tabled for the forthcoming Community Services & Continuing Care Standing Committee meeting the following week.

72/2002

NOTICE OF MOTION

Agenda Item 8.1

The following motion was proposed by Sen. T. Ridge and seconded by Cllr. C. McGrath:-

“That in view of the long waiting lists for speech therapy that this Board agrees to provide a service from the private sector for patients on list because of the severe and ongoing shortage of speech therapists available in the public sector.”

Following discussion to which Cllr. C. McGrath, Dr. S. Barry, Ms. M. Hoban, Ms. N. Harvey, Dr. B. Murphy, Dr. K. Harkin and Sen. T. Ridge contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded, it was agreed to bring a report to members at the next Board Meeting outlining how the Board will address this issue.

The motion was agreed.

Agenda Item 8.2

The following motion was proposed by Dr. K. Harkin and seconded by Cllr. C. McGrath:-

“That this board establish a mechanism to automatically monitor and report back to the board on communications and activities initiated as a result of motions carried by the board.”

Discussion followed to which Sen. T. Ridge and Dr. S. Barry contributed. It was suggested that information in response to motions be circulated to members at Board Meetings and that an update be provided to members on an ongoing basis, via the C.E.O.’s Report, regarding motions which had been adopted 6 months previously.

The motion was agreed.

73/2002**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

74/2002**SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS (JUNE 2002)**

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

75/2002**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The July meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 2nd July, 2002, at 2.00 p.m. in the Day Care Centre, St. Vincent’s Hospital, Athy, Co. Kildare.

CORRECT:

**P. DONNELLY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN