

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, 5th March, 2002, at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Mr. P. Aspell
Mr. G. Brady
Cllr. E. Byrne
Ms. A. Harris
Cllr. C. McGrath
Ald. M. Mooney
Cllr. C. O'Connor
Cllr. J. Reilly
Cllr. D. Tipping

Dr. S. Barry
Cllr. C. Byrne
Cllr. T. Cullen
Ms. M. Hoban
Cllr. M. Miley
Dr. B. Murphy
Sen. S. Ó Fearghail
Sen. T. Ridge

Non-Voting Members

Ms. N. Harvey

Mr. G. McGuire

Apologies

Dr. K. Harkin

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. H. Kane, Assistant Chief Executive
Mr. R. Mitchell, Director of Communications
Ms. R. Kavanagh, Senior Manager, Operations
Mr. M. Rogan, Director of Mental Health & Addiction Services
Mr. R. Healy, Board Secretary
Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, CEO's Office
Ms. L. Deering, Administrative Support, CEO's Office

30/2002

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. Visits outside of the region

Please note that the proposed visit to the Mental Health Service of the Cavan/Monaghan area of the North Eastern Health Board has been postponed. Unfortunately, due to the busy schedules of Board Members, it was impossible to organise a large enough group to attend on the proposed dates.

2. April Board Meeting

Please note that the April Board Meeting will take place here in the Board Room, Oak House and not in the Council Chambers, St. Mary's, as indicated on the agenda.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 5TH FEBRUARY, 2002

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 5th February, 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 Mr. G. Brady, seconded by Ms. A. Harris, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

1. Dr. Siobhán Barry

Re: Mental Health Services

“Could the CEO comment on:

- whether a formal application has been made to Comhairle na n-Oispidéal in respect of the proposed Outreach Psychiatric Team to be established within the S.W.A.H.B. for homeless persons which "should be established in the Summer 2002" (Questions to the C.E.O., February 2002), and the "consultant led multidisciplinary team incorporating sessions to the maternity services in Area 3" (E.R.H.A. Service Plan 2002, page 120)?
- the multidisciplinary nature of the latter team referred to above: its work base(s) and the proposed sessional breakdown

- whether the considerable sum of money being made available by the E.R.H.A. in 2002 for these service developments will be utilised elsewhere within S.W.A.H.B. should these services fail to be developed within the proposed time frame?"

Reply:

The South Western Area Health Board intend to deploy a Multidisciplinary Psychiatric Team for homeless individuals during 2002. The application to Comhairle na n-Oispidéal is being prepared and permission to employ a temporary Consultant is being sought.

The Outreach Psychiatric Team will consist of:

- Consultant Psychiatrist
- 1 NCHD
- 2 Community Mental Health Nurses
- 1 Senior Social Worker
- 1 Grade III Administrative support

Whole year costs associated with such posts amount to 375,000 Euro - 381,000 Euro has been allocated to commence this service.

The team will initially be based at Ushers Island to facilitate information exchange with the Outreach Psychiatric Team currently being deployed by the Northern Area Health Board. The South Western Area Health Board are in negotiations with the St. James's/St Patrick's service with a view to establishing this new team within that service. This would include a sessional commitment to St James's Hospital. Currently, seven percent of in-patient admissions to the Jonathan Swift Clinic are of homeless people with mental illness. The consultant's sessional breakdown has yet to be agreed.

The South Western Area Health Board are committed to developing this service as a matter of priority given the particular needs of this vulnerable client group. As the funding for this team has been allocated for a specific purpose, it is not envisaged that '*a considerable sum*' would be available to support other service areas within the South Western Area Health Board. If local area catchment teams are in a position to offer services which reduce the risk of homelessness, or can help to re-integrate individuals who have been homeless, some resource may be made available.

The additional Consultant-led Team in Dublin South City (*formerly Area 3*) will be based at St. Martha's Day Hospital and will have a sessional commitment to the Coombe Women's Hospital. It is proposed to provide 3 Consultants sessions per week to the Coombe; this arrangement is currently in discussion with the Area Management Team at St Patrick's Hospital. When the consultant sessional arrangements are agreed, the application process will begin. Permission to recruit temporarily will also be sought.

2. Cllr. Charlie O'Connor/Mr. Gerry McGuire

"To ask the C.E.O. to specify what monies were allocated to St. Lomans Mental Health Services resulting from the Commission on Nursing recommendations re the

provision of clerical and I.T. support to nursing staff, and when this money was designated for same? Could the C.E.O. also indicate the cost of this clerical support and the cost of the I.T. equipment and would he make a statement on the matter?"

Reply:

Arising from the Commission on Nursing in 2001, £27,954 was allocated for staff (i.e. 2 Grade IIIs and 1 Grade IV) and £4,500 was allocated for computers. These staff and computers were provided for in 2001.

In 2002 full year costs are €70,992 (£55,911) for staffing, an additional €19,046 (£15,000) was allocated to purchase additional computers. These additional computers have been ordered.

3. Cllr. Charlie O'Connor/Mr. Gerry McGuire

"While noting the deterioration of the premises at St. Lomans Hospital will the C.E.O. confirm:-

- (a) When it is intended to replace the existing buildings with new structures?
- (b) Could he give a date when temporary accommodation will be provided to facilitate the demolition of the existing buildings?
- (c) When construction on the new structures is likely to commence and the time frame envisaged for its completion?
- (d) Indicate the capital monies secured for this project whether from National Development Plan or otherwise?
- (e) Can the C.E.O. give a commitment that accommodation standards at St. Lomans will be brought up to an acceptable level whilst awaiting these developments?
- (f) Will the C.E.O. guarantee that areas in the hospital which have not been painted for 15 years will receive immediate attention?"

Reply:

- (a) It is expected that replacement units will be ready towards mid-end 2004, subject to the necessary capital funding being made available.
- (b) The contractor providing temporary accommodation for patients in Unit F has moved onto site and the facilities will be available in late August 2002.
- (c) Subject to the necessary capital funding being available, it is targeted to have contractors on site early 2003 with a target completion date of mid – late 2004.
- (d) The development of the St. Loman's Hospital campus is a 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.
- (e) It is proposed to develop the existing 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. It is envisaged that Phase 1 will be ready for occupation in late 2004.

Phase A of the development will see services such as mains-water supply, gas, high-power electric cables, pre-fabricated temporary buildings, services

roads and sewerage-schemes being brought into the site; Phase A has already commenced and the temporary accommodation will be ready for occupation in late August 2002.

Unit F and Occupational Therapy will be demolished subsequent to it's clients moving temporarily into the pre-fabricated building. This will free up the southern half of the campus and will allow, subject to funding, the commencement of Phase 1 of the development.

All the services in St. Lomans, at present, will be relocated to the new units subsequent to the completion of Phase 1.

Taking cognizance of the above, together with the component make-up of the remaining units (there is very little that can be done with timber external walls and flat roofs without first demolishing the entire unit) I believe there is limited scope for major upgrading works. I do, however, acknowledge the poor levels of existing accommodation. In this regard I have requested our Project Manager on-site to survey the remaining units (Joseph's and Beechaven) to establish, in the interim, if some works can be undertaken to bring the units up to a more acceptable level; pending their relocation to the new units in late 2004.

(f) There are three units on the Hospital Grounds at present. They are:

1. Unit F and Occupational Therapy
2. St Josephs
3. Beechaven.

As previously stated, I acknowledge the poor accommodation levels currently prevailing in St Lomans. I did, however, instruct our Project Manager on-site to have both St Josephs and Beechaven painted and decorated some months ago. At time of writing I have just phoned him and he assures me this instruction has been carried out.

As already advised, patients in Unit F will be relocated in late August 2002.

4. **Cllr. Colm McGrath/Mr. Gerry McGuire**

“To ask the C.E.O. what progress has been made in sourcing an appropriate alternative Day Care Centre for the Clondalkin Mental Health Services and will he make a statement on the matter?”

Reply:

The Board has identified the service as a priority for Capital Funding and is aware of the poor conditions in the centre. Over the past number of years every effort has been made by this service to source an alternative Day Centre premises for that based at the Scouts Den Hall, Orchard Rd., Clondalkin.

Taking into account the restrictions imposed by the fact that an alternative premises is required in or around the Clondalkin village area, a variety of houses, warehouses, office accommodation, etc., have been viewed in the locale over the past ten years or so. To date for various reasons, including the general unsuitability of premises viewed, we have failed to secure an appropriate alternative.

In more recent times, just prior to Christmas, a house was viewed on Monastery Rd., Clondalkin, and was, unfortunately, found to be unsuitable for our needs. More recently, yet another premises was viewed prior to going on the market. This 6 bedroom, dormer bungalow was found to be ideal for use as a Day Centre.

Planning Permission for “Change of Use” and some element of renovation will be required if such proposal is accepted. However, no capital funds exist for such development.

5. Ms. Noeleen Harvey

“How many permanent and temporary positions are there for pharmacists and pharmaceutical technicians in:-

- (a) Naas General Hospital
- (b) South Western Health Board Drugs/Aids Service
- (c) South Western Health Board Community Care

Does Naas General Hospital provide pharmacy services to any other hospitals or long stay units?”

Reply:

The following is the current situation regarding positions for pharmacists and pharmaceutical technicians in the South Western Area Health Board:-

(a) Naas General Hospital

Pharmacists

- 2 permanent posts (1 Chief II Pharmacist, 1 Senior Pharmacist)
- 1 temporary post (Senior Pharmacist)

Pharmaceutical Technicians

- 3 permanent posts (2 Senior Technicians, 1 Basic Grade Technician)

(b) AIDS/Drugs Service

At present the AIDS/Drugs Service in the South Western Area Health Board dispenses from thirteen locations on a seven-day basis.

The following pharmacy staff are currently employed in this service:-

Pharmacists

- 3 temporary posts (1 full-time Liaison Pharmacist, 2 full-time Senior Pharmacist)
- In addition, 26 sessional pharmacists are employed (approximately equivalent to 12 whole-time pharmacists).

Pharmaceutical Technicians

- There are no pharmaceutical technicians currently in this service.

(c) Community Pharmacy Service

There is currently one Community Pharmacist employed in the Eastern Regional Health Authority Area. Although based in the East Coast Area Health Board, the Community Pharmacist provides a regional service to all three Boards.

The South Western Area Health Board has sought funding for the employment of its own Community Pharmacist in the 2002 Provider Plan and indications are that funding will be made available in the near future.

As soon as funding becomes available the post will be advertised immediately.

There are no Pharmacy Technicians employed in Community Services in the South Western Area Health Board.

Naas General Hospital Pharmacy Department provides a pharmacy service to:-

- St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy
- Baltinglass Hospital
- Acute Psychiatric Services in Naas Hospital
- Clozaril service for community psychiatric patients

33/2002

REPORT 4/2002 – REPORT ON ALCOHOL RELATED PROBLEMS AND PROPOSALS FOR RESPONSE

Mr. H. Kane, Assistant Chief Executive, presented Report 4/2002 to members [copy filed with official minute].

Discussion followed to which Dr. S. Barry, Cllr. J. Reilly, Ms. M. Hoban, Ms. N. Harvey, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. D. Tipping, Ald. M. Mooney, Dr. B. Murphy and Mr. G. McGuire contributed and to which Mr. Kane responded as follows:-

- A suggestion by Cllr. J. Reilly that staff from an Accident & Emergency Department should come to a future Standing Committee meeting to outline their views on dealing with patients who present at A& E as a result of alcohol misuse, was noted.
- The suggestion by Ms. N. Harvey that the content of alcohol be clearly marked in units on individual bottles was also noted. It was agreed to look at the possibility of piloting such an initiative in our Board's area.
- It was agreed to look at possibilities of utilising supermarket areas to highlight the dangers of alcohol misuse.

It was agreed to bring the report back to Standing Committee again to allow for further discussion. It was suggested that the report could also be presented to the National Association of Health Boards in Ireland.

34/2002**CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT**

The Chief Executive read Report No. 5/2002 to members (copy filed with official minute):

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

- Naas General Hospital – Project Update
- Meeting on Infrastructural Development
- Orthodontic Services
- Derrinturn Health Centre
- Consultant Histopathologist Post
- Cherry Orchard Hospital
- Health Strategy Consultative Process
- Cancer Nurse Co-ordinator Review
- Forum on Accident and Emergency Services
- Discharge Planning from Acute Hospitals in the Eastern Region
- Ombudsman for Children Bill
- Task Force on Medical Staffing
- Celebration of Foster Care
- Traveller Health Strategy

Discussion followed to which Sen. T. Ridge, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. D. Tipping, Mr. G. McGuire, Cllr. J. Reilly and Ald. M. Mooney contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded. The following matters were agreed:-

- It was agreed to hold a Joint Standing Committee meeting to discuss issues raised by members regarding the orthodontic service.
- The availability of the post-mortem service from Naas General Hospital to be further clarified.

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

35/2002**MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Mr. G. McGuire requested that the use of the term "Observers" be discontinued from future minutes of Board meetings and that the term "Non-Voting Member" be substituted. It was agreed to obtain clarification from the Eastern Regional Health Authority on the overall status of members affected by this issue in general.

Ms. M. Hoban sought clarification regarding the level of funding provided by the Board to Cuan Mhuire, Athy. Arising out of the discussion which followed, it was suggested that future service visits be organised in line with the recommendations of the Protocol and Procedures Committee following their recent review of same.

36/2002**PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Ms. A. Harris, the progress report from the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee meeting dated 14th February, 2002, was adopted.

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy, the progress report from the Disabilities, Mental Health and Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee meeting dated 21st February, 2002, was adopted.

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Sen. T. Ridge, the progress report from the Joint Standing Committee meeting dated 19th February, 2002, was adopted.

37/2002**NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following motion was proposed by Cllr. C. McGrath and Mr. G. McGuire and seconded by Cllr. J. Reilly:-

“That this board condemn the day care facility at the Clondalkin Mental Health Centre and calls on the C.E.O. to seek immediate alternative accommodation for this service or else discontinue the service until adequate accommodation is secured.”

Discussion followed to which Sen. T. Ridge, Mr. G. McGuire, Dr. S. Barry, Ald. M. Mooney, Cllr. E. Byrne and Cllr. C. McGrath contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded as follows:-

- The need for a replacement premises for this service was acknowledged. Members were informed that this need has been identified to the E.R.H.A. by our Board.
- Considerable efforts have been made by our Board to identify and obtain suitable alternative premises in the Clondalkin area. Despite the unsuccessful outcome to date in this regard, the matter will continue to be pursued vigorously.
- The need to continue to provide a service in the interim was emphasised.

Arising out of this discussion, members agreed to amend the motion as follows:-

“That this board condemn the day care facility at the Clondalkin Mental Health Centre and calls on the C.E.O. to seek immediate alternative accommodation for this service or else consider discontinuing the service until adequate accommodation is secured.”

In addition, members requested that a report on progress regarding this matter be brought back to members at the next Board Meeting.

38/2002**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

39/2002

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

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

Cllr. J. Reilly requested that details of visits are not to be included in the visit schedule unless all details are confirmed.

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DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

The April meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 9th April, 2002, at 2.00 p.m. in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.

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

CHAIRMAN