

**SOUTH WESTERN AREA HEALTH BOARD**

**Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the South Western Area Health Board held in the Board Room, South Western Area Health Board Headquarters, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare, on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2002, at 2.00 p.m.**

*Present*

Mr. P. Aspell  
Cllr. C. Byrne  
Cllr. T. Cullen  
Dr. K. Harkin  
Ms. M. Hoban  
Dr. B. Murphy  
Cllr. J. Reilly  
Cllr. D. Tipping

Dr. S. Barry  
Cllr. E. Byrne  
Mr. J. Fallon  
Ms. A. Harris  
Cllr. C. McGrath  
Cllr. C. O'Connor, T.D.  
Cllr. T. Ridge

*Non-Voting Members*

Ms. N. Harvey

Mr. G. McGuire

*Apologies*

Cllr. S. O Fearghail, T.D.

*In the Chair*

Cllr. T. Ridge

*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. M. Rogan, Director, Mental Health & Addiction Services  
Mr. R. Kavanagh, Senior Manager, Operations  
Ms. C. Cuffe, Senior Manager, Operations  
Ms. C. Bergin, Senior Manager, Operations  
Ms. S. Mughan, Child & Adolescent Health Development Officer  
Mr. R. Healy, Board Secretary  
Ms. P. Dempsey, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office  
Ms. C. Armstrong, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office

At the outset, Cllr. J. Reilly requested that consideration be given to providing palliative care services in the recently established Maynooth Community Unit. The Assistant Chief Executive, Operations (Community Services) agreed to follow up on this matter.

## **115/2002**

### **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. *Election of Committee Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen***

I would like to inform members of the outcome of elections held at the recent Committee Meetings. The following members were elected:-

##### ***Finance and Property Committee***

Chairman: Cllr. Therese Ridge  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Jim Reilly

##### ***Protocol and Procedures Committee***

Chairman: Cllr. Colm McGrath  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Don Tipping

#### **2. *December Board Meeting***

I would like to draw members attention to the notice in the Agenda Papers regarding the change of venue, date and time of the December Board Meeting.

#### **3. *Committee Meeting***

I would also like to inform members that Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park has now been confirmed as the venue for the Community Services & Continuing Care Standing Committee on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2002, this meeting will take place at 11.00 a.m.

#### **4. *Launch of "Reflecting The Relationships" Report***

On 10<sup>th</sup> October last I launched the report "Reflecting the Relationships". This report was carried out to reflect the relationships between the former Eastern Health Board and the voluntary organisations it worked with, and funded. The report highlights the important components that provide for good working relationships and these include mutual trust, communication and working together.

I am sure that the learning and recommendations from the report will be adopted by the three area health boards in their work of building and enhancing the relationship with the respective voluntary agencies they work with.

5. ***Workshop on Services for Older Persons***

A workshop for Services for Older Persons – *‘Issues and Challenges’* will be held on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2002 in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park. Dr. J.B. Walsh Consultant, Geriatrician, St. James’s Hospital will be the main speaker. I urge all members to attend this important workshop which will inform future strategy in this area.

**116/2002**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2002**

The minutes of the proceedings of the Board Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2002, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Mr. J. Fallon.

**117/2002**

**QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

On a proposal by Deputy C. O’Connor, seconded by Cllr. Jim Reilly, it was agreed to answer the questions which had been lodged.

1. **Dr. Siobhán Barry**

“Re: Areas 3& 4 (Tallaght Hospital) acute Adult Mental Health Services:

- Given the well documented but ongoing dangerously low provision of acute psychiatric admission beds and the persistent unavailability of secure beds at St Brendan’s Hospital for Areas 3 & 4 (Tallaght/Clondalkin/Ballyfermot/Drimnagh) at Tallaght Hospital, could the C.E.O. detail his immediate plans to remedy this situation?
- Could the C.E.O. comment on the current lack of recreational facility (i.e. walk-about areas) for the humane containment, assessment and treatment of disturbed patients admitted to Tallaght Hospital, and advise the Board on viable options to address this?”

**Reply:**

- Access to beds at St. Brendan’s Hospital remains limited, and the ideal situation of set-aside beds for use by South Western Area Health Board has not been attained. Negotiations continue and as agreed procedure is likely, comprising the following: referrals will be assessed by the consultant in charge of the secure unit at St. Brendan’s Hospital within two working days of a referral request. Subject to acceptance and bed availability, patients will be received into the unit with minimum delay. In the event of there being no bed available, we then seek to have the patient admitted on an exchange basis, that is, in exchange for a transfer of one of their more stable patients to our unit.
- The Management Team at St. Loman’s Hospital are currently reviewing the feasibility of separating out a section of either Cedar or Rowan units (Tallaght

Hospital) for use as an intensive care unit, which would contain six beds. The proposed intensive care facility will incorporate a walk-about area, although the recreational space is overall rather limited in comparison to that available in traditional psychiatric hospitals, however it reasonably compares to most other General Hospital based facilities. Equivalent facilities in other hospitals have been visited, a multidisciplinary action committee has been assembled and this committee will report back to the hospital Management Committee within the next few weeks.

- There are recreational and walk-about areas shared by patients from Rowan and Cedar units (Tallaght Hospital). There is also an enclosed garden to which all the patients have access. There are smoking and non-smoking television rooms and other sitting rooms. There is an OT Department within the unit to which patients may be referred. Plans are in place for the construction of a snoozelan room (relaxation/therapeutic room). Provisional plans for medium term expansion of the psychiatric unit include more extensive recreational facilities.

## 2. Cllr. Eric Byrne

“Given the ratification of the Nice Treaty on the expansion of Europe by the Irish electorate and the rapid Multi-Cultural nature of Irish Society, will the C.E.O. list the number of Chaplains engaged by this Health Board on it’s payroll?”

Will he state the total cost to the board in employing Chaplains?

Will he give a detailed breakdown of the religious affiliation of the Chaplains?

Will he say whom and by what method of recruitment are these Chaplains employed?

And to whom they are answerable to in their employment?”

### Reply:

The South Western Area Health Board employs 15 Chaplains.

The total cost of employing Chaplains in the South Western Area Health Board is €76,236.29 + 1 post at Clerical Officer Grade.

The following are the religious affiliations of the Chaplains employed:-

- 9 Roman Catholic.
- 5 Church of Ireland Rector.
- 1 Methodist Minister.
- 1 Presbyterian Minister.

Chaplains appointed to the Services for Older Persons, Naas Hospital & AMINCH, Tallaght are selected by their local diocese and appointed by the health board.

The appointment in St. Lomans Hospital is made by the Auxiliary Bishop in the Dublin Diocese who looks after Chaplaincies.

The Chaplains liaise with Directors of Nursing, General Managers or Hospital Managers on a day to day basis, however they are accountable to the superior within their religious affiliation.

**3. Cllr. Jim Reilly**

“Will the C.E.O. confirm when the replacement Health Centre promised for Coill Dubh, Naas, since 1998 will be erected, and if he is aware of the serious difficulties which are being caused to the very young and very old in the absence of a Health Centre at this location?”

**Reply:**

It is the Boards stated intention to provide a replacement Health Centre in Coill Dubh as soon as possible. The estimated cost is in the region of €1.1m and has been included in our capital development programme. Coill Dubh Health Centre was destroyed by fire in 1998. The premises was a small building that by today’s standards would be considered inadequate to meet the needs of a community.

The Board in its efforts to secure a replacement has pursued two avenues. The adjoining landowner was approached with a view to selling a portion of land that would be sufficient to construct a Health Centre, which would meet the needs of the community similar to Derrinturn Health Centre. Additional capital money has been sought from ERHA, however no decision has been received to date.

An alternative proposal is also under consideration whereby a local developer expressed an interest in acquiring the Health Board site in Coill Dubh. Negotiations were entered into and a proposal was put forward that would see the Health Board exchanging its current site for a much larger site within a half-mile at no additional cost. We are awaiting a formal approach in writing from the developer in order to pursue this proposal further.

In the interim, services are being provided in Derrinturn and Clane Health Centres.

**4. Cllr. C. O’Connor, T.D.**

“To ask the C.E.O. if he will now confirm plans for the provision of an Addiction Centre in Tallaght; will he state what services will be provided in this centre and the catchment area to be covered; and will he make a statement?”

**Reply:**

Negotiations are still ongoing in relation to the provision of an addiction centre in Tallaght. Until these negotiations are concluded it would be premature to announce specific plans.

**5. Cllr. C. O’Connor, T.D.**

“To ask the C.E.O. to make immediate arrangements for the provision of Speech & Language Therapy Services in:-

- (a) Ard Mhuire National School, Belgard, Tallaght, and
- (b) St. Mark’s Junior National School, Springfield, Tallaght

Will he note the concerns of many in these matters and will he make a statement?"

**Reply:**

The ECAHB has regional responsibility for the speech and language unit in Ballinteer Health Centre and the speech and language services in the speech and language classes in Ard Mhuire National School Belgard, Tallaght and St. Mark's Junior School, Tallaght and other similar language classes. The ECAHB has just completed a review of these services and a report will be issued shortly. A review is also being undertaken by the Department of Education and Science.

The provision of speech and language therapy at local community care level is the responsibility of the relevant health board. There is a national shortage of speech and language therapists, which is related primarily to the shortage of training places.

When the reviews by the ECAHB and the Department of Education and Science are completed we will further progress this matter.

**118/2002**

**PRESENTATION ON REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF MENTAL HOSPITALS 2001**

Mr. Hugh Kane, Assistant Chief Executive gave an outline to members on the principal aspects of the Report of the Inspector of Mental Hospitals 2001 [copy circulated with agenda papers].

Discussion followed to which Dr. S. Barry, Cllr. J. Reilly, Ms. M. Hoban, Mr. G. McGuire and Ms. A. Harris contributed and to which Mr. Kane responded as follows:-

- Special observations are controlled and determined by consultant psychiatrists.
- Issues regarding the post of the Consultant Psychiatrist with the Homeless Services are in the process of being resolved. The Consultant-led team for this service will be accommodated in Parkgate House and the service will be delivered locally.
- Members were updated regarding the current position re the filling of the Clinical Director's post for Kildare/West Wicklow.
- An additional community-based psychiatric team has been appointed in the North Kildare area.
- E.R.H.A. have agreed in principle to the disposal of Auburn House.
- The in-patient needs of 16-18 year olds are provided by the adult mental health services. The in-patient needs of under 16 year olds are met in the two in-patient units in Warrenstown and Courthall.
- The development of a 6 bedded unit for 16-18 year olds will be contingent on the allocation of capital and revenue resources.

Members noted the presentation.

**119/2002**

**C.E.O.'S REPORT**

The C.E.O. read Report No. 15/2002 to members [copy filed with official minute].

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

- Delayed Discharges in Acute Hospitals
- Speech & Language Therapy update
- Information Line – Victims of Clerical Sexual Abuse
- Primary Care Projects
- Review of Motions
- Naas General Hospital Update
- Pilot Project – Safe Disposal Household Medications
- BreastCheck Annual Report
- Suicide/Parasuicide Reports
- Epilepsy Educational Video
- Inaugural Meeting of the Irish Health Services Accreditation Board
- National Breastfeeding Week
- Pro-Teen Matters
- Assistant Chief Executive Post

Discussion followed to which Dr. K. Harkin, Ms. M. Hoban, Dr. B. Murphy, Cllr. J. Reilly, Cllr E. Byrne, Ms. N. Harvey, Cllr. T. Ridge, Mr. G. McGuire, Dr. S. Barry and Cllr. C. Byrne contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded as follows:-

- Progress is ongoing regarding Dr. K. Harkin's motion of July 2000. It was agreed that an update regarding this motion will be brought to a future board meeting.
- Enquiries will be made to determine if there is spare capacity of Speech & Language Therapists in the private sector.
- It was confirmed that the post of Consultant General Surgeon between Naas General Hospital and the Adelaide and Meath Hospital, incorporating the National Children's Hospital, Tallaght, is a replacement post.
- The Primary Care Team to be set up in the South Inner City of Dublin will be chaired by an Assistant Chief Executive.

Mr. Martin Rogan, Director, Mental Health and Addiction Services, provided clarification on a number of issues regarding the Pilot Project on the safe disposal of household medicines. Further information will be obtained for members regarding the disposal of diabetic needles.

Members wished Ms. Bríd Clarke every success in her new appointment as C.E.O. of the Mental Health Commission.

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

## **120/2002**

### **MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

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

**121/2002****PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

On a proposal by Mr. P. Aspell, seconded by Cllr. J. Reilly, the progress report from the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee meeting dated 30th September, 2002, was adopted.

On a proposal by Ms. A. Harris, seconded by Cllr. E. Byrne, the progress report from the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee meeting dated 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2002, was adopted.

On a proposal by Mr. J. Fallon, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy, the progress report from the Disabilities, Mental Health & Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee meeting dated 17th September, 2002, was adopted.

On a proposal by Mr. J. Fallon, seconded by Dr. B. Murphy, the progress report from the Disabilities, Mental Health & Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee meeting dated 24th September, 2002, was adopted.

**122/2002****PROGRESS REPORT FROM FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Mr. J. Fallon, the progress report from the Finance & Property Committee meeting dated 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2002, was adopted.

**123/2002****PROGRESS REPORT FROM PROTOCOL & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE**

On a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Mr. J. Fallon, the progress report from the Protocol & Procedures Committee meeting dated 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2002, was adopted.

**124/2002****PROGRESS REPORT FROM CHILD CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

On a proposal by Cllr. T. Ridge, seconded by Ms. A. Harris, the progress report from the Child Care Advisory Committee meeting dated 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2002, was adopted.

**125/2002****NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following motion was proposed by Dr. K. Harkin and seconded by Cllr. T. Ridge:-

“That this board is deeply concerned at the two tier funding of the over 70 year old patients within the General Medical Service and calls upon the Department of Health to review this as a matter of urgency”

Discussion followed to which Dr. K. Harkin, Cllr. E. Byrne and Ms. N. Harvey contributed.

The motion was agreed.

**126/2002**  
**CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**127/2002**  
**SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**MEETINGS (NOVEMBER 2002)**

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

**128/2002**  
**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The December meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2002, at 6.00 p.m. in Citywest Hotel, Saggart, Co. Dublin.

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

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**CHAIRMAN**