

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, 3rd September, 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
Mr. J. Fallon	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, T.D.	Cllr. S. Ó Fearghail, T.D.
Cllr. J. Reilly	Cllr. T. Ridge
Cllr. D. Tipping	Cllr. J. Wall, T.D.

Non-Voting Members

Ms. N. Harvey	Mr. G. McGuire
---------------	----------------

Apologies

Dr. M. Gueret

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. W. Quinn, General Manager, Dublin West
 Mr. J. Leech, Management Accountant
 Ms. P. Bryan, Director – Primary Care & Acute Services
 Ms. C. Bergin, Senior Manager, Operations
 Ms. C. Cuffe, Senior Manager, Operations
 Mr. R. Kavanagh, Senior Manager, Operations
 Mr. R. Healy, Board Secretary
 Ms. A. Farrell, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office
 Ms. C. Armstrong, Administrative Support, C.E.O.'s Office

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, in response to a query raised by Cllr. J. Reilly, the C.E.O. confirmed that the Northern Area Health Board has agreed to review their recent decision regarding the provision of the Mobile Day Hospital service.

94/2002

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. *Amended Agenda*

I would like to draw members' attention to the amended agenda which was forwarded to you by post, a copy of which is on your desks. If members are agreeable, I will take the order of business as scheduled on this amended agenda.

2. *Cultural Evening*

On the 21st August I officiated at a cultural celebration evening at Cherry Orchard Hospital hosted by the management and staff of the hospital. The event was a great success and showed that all the staff have positively embraced cultural integration at the hospital by expressing their cultures through the sharing of traditions, music and dance on the evening. A number of representatives from the various embassies also attended this event.

3. *Launch Phase 3 – Naas Hospital*

I would like to inform members that the Minister of Finance, Mr. Charlie McCreevy, will officially commence the launch of Phase 3 and the final phase of development of Naas General Hospital on 12th September. Invitations will be forwarded to members in the near future.

95/2002

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 2ND JULY, 2002, AND A.G.M. & SPECIAL BOARD MEETING HELD ON 5TH JULY, 2002

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting held on 2nd July, 2002, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. J. Reilly, seconded by Mr. J. Fallon.

The minutes of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held on 5th July, 2002, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Ms. M. Hoban, seconded by Ms. A. Harris.

The minutes of the proceedings of the Special Board Meeting held on 5th July, 2002, having been circulated, were confirmed on a proposal by Cllr. M. Miley, seconded by Ms. C. Byrne.

96/2002

QUESTIONS TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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

1. Dr. Siobhán Barry

“Re: Adult Mental Health Services in acute inpatient units in the South Western Area Health Board general hospitals.

Could the C.E.O. inform the Board of the adequacy and capacity of these facilities within the Board's area?

Could he comment on the provision for psychiatric intensive care (secure) beds for the assessment and treatment of acutely disturbed and assaultive patients?

How many people (and % of total bed number) are currently occupying acute beds for longer than 3 months due to the lack of appropriate community rehabilitation residences?”

Reply:

In accordance with the Department of Health & Children's policy, the South Western Area Health Board operate three acute psychiatric in-patient units in acute hospitals.

<i>Unit</i>	Acute In-patient Beds
Rowan & Cedar Unit, Department of Psychiatry, AMiNCH, Tallaght	50 beds
Lakeview Unit, Naas General Hospital	30 beds
Jonathan Swift Clinic, St. James's Hospital	51 beds

Given the significant increase in population in the South Western Area Health Board in the recent past, these units experience significant pressure in meeting the demand for in-patient care.

As reported to the Board in December 2001 (Report no 16-2001):-

‘Based on an approximate population of 500,000 in the South Western Area Health Board, the current levels of service outlined in the Inspector of Mental Hospitals Report 2000, and the recommendations for levels of service in ‘Planning for the Future, 1984’, there are obvious deficiencies in the current level of service in the South Western Area Health Board.

For example, ‘Planning for the Future’ recommended 250 acute in-patient places - we currently have 121. It recommended 375 day hospital spaces - we currently have 94. It recommended 375 day centre spaces - we currently have 261. We have 253 residential support places in high, medium and low support facilities. Based on our Board's population, this should be 300 high support, 300 medium support and 300 low support places.’

This deficiency has been highlighted to the Eastern Regional Health Authority and quarterly Performance Indicator reports are also submitted to the Authority.

Regional secure facilities are provided by the Northern Area Health Board on behalf of the three Area Boards at St. Brendan's Hospital. This service is experiencing staffing difficulties and access is limited. A working group of nominated Clinical

Directors from the three Area Boards are currently working on improving access to this essential facility. The three acute units in the South Western Area Health Board have short term secure facilities for assaultive or acutely disturbed patients

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Safe Room Beds</i>
Jonathan Swift Clinic, St. James's Hospital	2 beds
Rowan & Cedar Unit, Department of Psychiatry, AMiNCH, Tallaght	2 beds
Lakeview Unit, Naas	1 bed

The number of patients currently occupying acute beds for longer than three months and are waiting appropriate community placement in the South Western Area is 22.

Unit	Occupied Beds	% of Bed Complement
Jonathan Swift Clinic, St. James's Hospital	7	3.5%
Rowan & Cedar Unit, Department of Psychiatry, AMiNCH, Tallaght	8	4%
Lakeview Unit, Naas General Hospital	7	21%

Our mental health services aim to open two High Support Hostel facilities at Clonree House, Newbridge, and Teach Bán, Newcastle, Co. Dublin, in the coming months. We are also actively engaged with the four relevant local authorities and two social housing providers in order to create additional capacity.

2. Cllr. C. O'Connor

"To ask the C.E.O. to confirm progress with efforts to provide for the immediate redevelopment of the Millbrook Lawns Health Centre, Tallaght, noting the continued anxiety of the local community, clients and indeed staff, that this matter receive priority attention; will he outline the current position and make a statement?"

Reply:

The re-development of Millbrook Lawns Health Centre is a priority capital project for the South Western Area Health Board. The development brief has been finalised and we are awaiting approval from the E.R.H.A. to interview and engage the design team to progress the project.

To facilitate the ongoing provision of services from the existing Centre, repairs and improvements are being made on an ongoing basis.

The Health Centre has been painted internally and externally and an extra toilet has been provided for use by the public. Additional offices have been provided for use by Community Welfare and Barnardos. The Speech & Language Therapy service has been relocated to a different area within the Centre. Essential health and safety improvements have been made in the last year. The fire alarm system has been upgraded within the centre and the ceiling has been substantially improved. Health and safety matters are being kept continually under review.

3. Cllr. C. O'Connor

“To ask the C.E.O. to update the Board on his proposals to provide an addiction centre in the Tallaght area; will he state what progress he has made in the matter over the summer months and will he make a statement?”

Reply:

The Addiction Services continue to actively seek appropriate premises to establish an Addiction Centre in Tallaght.

Three potential premises in the Tallaght area are being examined at this time and are under active consideration.

The Board is hopeful that one of these premises will be deemed suitable to meet our needs within the next few weeks.

97/2002

REPORT 12/2002 – REPORT ON OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES

Ms. B. Clarke, Assistant C.E.O., presented Report 12/2002 [copy filed with official minute] which was circulated at the meeting.

Discussion followed to which Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. S. O Fearghail, Cllr. J. Reilly, Dr. S. Barry, Cllr. J. Wall, Ms. M. Hoban, Ms. N. Harvey, Cllr. D. Tipping and Mr. G. McGuire contributed and to which the Assistant C.E.O. responded as follows:-

- Further discussions with local authorities will be required to address some of the outstanding issues surrounding the role of occupational therapists in assessing premises for applications for Disabled Persons Grants.
- It was agreed to follow up a specific query raised by a Board Member regarding an application for grant towards housing extension.
- The position regarding the board's sponsorship of training for Occupational Therapists was clarified.
- It was agreed to bring further information regarding Disabled Persons Grants, and occupational therapy services outside the Kildare/West Wicklow area, to a future Standing Committee.

Members noted the report.

98/2002

RE: GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES (PAYMENTS) BOARD REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2001

Ms. B. Clarke, Assistant C.E.O., gave a slide presentation summarising key points from the G.M.S. (Payments) Board Annual Report for year ended 31st December, 2001, which had been circulated with the agenda papers [copy filed with official minute].

The Assistant C.E.O. agreed to follow up an issue raised by Cllr. E. Byrne concerning Drugs Payment Scheme cards.

Members noted the report.

99/2002

C.E.O.'S REPORT

The C.E.O. read Report No. 13/2002 to members [copy filed with official minute].

Areas covered in the report are set out below:-

- Employment-Related Cost Savings
- Hospital Attendants Dispute
- Public Private Partnerships
- Partnership Funding
- Addiction Services – Update
- Property Register
- National Literacy Awareness Week

Members thanked the C.E.O. for his report. Discussion followed to which Cllr. D. Tipping, Cllr. T. Ridge, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. C. McGrath, Mr. P. Aspell, Mr. G. McGuire, Dr. K. Harkin, Ald. M. Mooney, Mr. G. Brady, Mr. J. Fallon and Ms. M. Hoban contributed and to which the C.E.O. responded as follows:-

- Members were advised regarding their role in relation to the information on employment-related cost savings.
- Members were informed that the proposals outlined in the C.E.O.'s Report with regard to cost savings will be submitted to the E.R.H.A., having taken members' views into consideration, however, they will require further discussion with the Authority.
- A proposal concerning the Naas General Hospital development put forward by one member was not supported.
- Aspects of the C.E.O.'s Report referring to clerical/administrative support were clarified.
- It was agreed to follow up on an issue raised by a member concerning facilities for stabilisation within the addiction services.

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

100/2002

MATTERS FOR MENTION/MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Cllr. D. Tipping raised the issue of comments in the press recently by a Board Member. Following discussion to which Cllr. C. McGrath, Cllr. E. Byrne and Dr. K. Harkin contributed, it was agreed on a proposal by Cllr. C. McGrath, seconded by Ms. M. Hoban, to refer this matter to the Protocol and Procedures Committee. On a proposal by Cllr. E. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. C. O'Connor, it was also agreed that the Protocol and Procedures Committee be given the full support of the Communications Department in this matter.

101/2002**PROGRESS REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

On a proposal by Mr. P. Aspell, seconded by Ms. M. Hoban, the progress report from the Community Services and Continuing Care Standing Committee meeting dated 11th July, 2002, was adopted.

On a proposal by Dr. B. Murphy, seconded by Ms. M. Hoban, the progress report from the Joint Standing Committee meeting dated 17th July, 2002, was adopted.

On a proposal by Mr. J. Fallon, seconded by Ald. M. Mooney, the progress report from the Disabilities, Mental Health & Addiction and Acute Services Standing Committee meeting dated 30th July, 2002, was adopted.

102/2002**SCHEDULE OF VISITS FOR BOARD MEMBERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS (SEPTEMBER 2002)**

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

103/2002**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The October meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday, 1st October, 2002, at 2.00 p.m. in the Board Room, Oak House, Millennium Park, Naas, Co. Kildare.

CORRECT: P. DONNELLY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CHAIRMAN