



**EASTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of proceedings of Board Meeting  
held in the Boardroom, Dr Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8  
on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at 6.00 p.m.**

*Present*

|                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ald. Ivor Callely, T.D   | Dr. S. Barry          |
| Cllr. L. Butler          | Cllr. C. Burke        |
| Cllr. E. Byrne           | Cllr. M. Corrigan     |
| Cllr. L. Creaven         | Cllr. T. Cullen       |
| Cllr. A. Devitt          | Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne |
| Mr. G. Brady             | Cllr. P. Doran        |
| Ald. Sen. J. Doyle       | Cllr. A. Doyle        |
| Cllr. D. Heney           | Dr. J. Fennell        |
| Cllr. Dr. D. Fitzpatrick | Sen. T. Ridge         |
| Dr. M. Gueret            | Mrs. C. Quinn         |
| Ms. A. Harris            | Ms. N. Harvey         |
| Mr. P. Ledwidge          | Cllr. C. McGrath      |
| Mr. G. McGuire           | Cllr. M. Miley        |
| Dr. P. O'Connell         | Dr. B. Murphy         |
| Mr. M. Murphy            | Cllr. E. O'Brien      |
| Cllr. Dr. W. O'Connell   | Cllr C. O'Connor      |
| Cllr. M. O'Donovan       | Sen. S. O'Fearghail   |
| Cllr. J. Reilly          | Dr. J. Reilly         |
| Mr. L. Tuomey            | Cllr. D. Tipping      |

*In the Chair*

Ald. Ivor Callely, T.D

**Apologies**

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Mr. P. Aspell   | Mr. J. Fallon |
| Mr. J. Dolan    | Ms. M. Hoban  |
| Cllr. D. Murray |               |

*In Attendance*

|                                   |                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Mr. Donal O Shea, Chief Executive |                   |                   |
| Mr. Pat McLoughlin                | Mr. Liam Woods    | Ms. Breda Lawless |
| Ms. Angela Fitzgerald             | Mr. Martin Devine |                   |

## **The Chairman read the Opening Prayer**

**00/12/74**

### **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

1. The Chairman expressed sympathy on his own behalf and on behalf of the Board members with Dr. Marie Laffoy on the death of her father.
2. He drew to the members attention the list of forthcoming meetings of the Authority for the month of December.
3. He informed members that Christmas Cards and E.R.H.A. diaries were now available.
4. The Chairman raised the issue of members allowances and on the proposal of Cllr. T. Cullen, seconded by Cllr. L. Butler, it was decided that it would be discussed at a meeting of the Protocol Committee on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2000.

### **00/12/75 Minutes of proceedings of meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2000**

#### ***Agenda Item No. 2***

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2000, having been circulated, were proposed for adoption by Cllr. B. O'Connell, seconded by Cllr. L. Butler and agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Corrigan that under Item 00/10/58 – Report 11/00 Commissioning of Intellectual Disability Services, the following sentence should read “Places would be appropriate for the specific needs of individuals “ and not “Places would be appropriate for the needs of specific individuals”. This amendment was agreed.

### **00/12/76 Questions to the Chief Executive**

#### **(i) Cllr E. Byrne**

“Will the Chief Executive please outline any financial agreement agreed between this Authority and the doctor members of the Board that allows doctors to engage locums while in attendance at Board meetings. Will he say if a lump sum payment has been paid to the doctors? Will he say what scheme will apply to the non-doctor members and will he make a statement on the matter?”

#### **Reply**

There is no arrangement between the Authority and the doctor members of the Board regarding locums, and no payments have been made by this Authority of either a lump sum nature or otherwise in this context.

There has been in place since 1998 a national arrangement between the Department of Health & Children and the Irish Medical Organisation dealing with arrangements for the provision by general practitioners of services under Section 58 of the Health Act 1970 whereby locum allowances will be paid in respect of attendance by general practitioners

at meetings of statutory bodies. These payments are made as part of the regular payments to general practitioners participating in the G.M.S. scheme, and are not paid as meeting expenses.

Payments of expenses to members of the Board must, under law, be in accordance with a scale determined by the Minister for Health and Children with the consent of the Minister for Finance. Any changes in current arrangements would require the approval of both Ministers.

(ii) **Cllr. D. Heney**

“To ask the Chief Executive to outline the controls, regulations and monitoring which takes place in regard to private nursing homes, if the Authority lay down regulations or offer advice to private nursing homes, if there are regulations in relation to the level of recreation, stimulation and social activity which patients should enjoy, how these regulations are enforced, if any action or sanction has been taken against any nursing home, if so, how many, what fines were imposed and if a statement can be made on the matter”.

**Reply**

Private nursing homes are registered in accordance with the Health (Nursing Homes) Act 1990 and the Nursing Homes (Care and Welfare) Regulations 1993.

Nursing home owners applying for registration are made aware of the statutory requirements under the Act and are issued with documentation including Code of Practice for nursing homes.

The Regulations in 1993 set out specific requirements with regard to ‘Welfare and Well-being’ of persons maintained in a nursing home which include:

- Facilities for the occupation and recreation of persons
- Opportunities for the participation in activities appropriate to a patient’s interests and capacities
- Freedom to exercise choice
- Privacy to undertake personal activities
- Information concerning current affairs, community resources and events
- Facilitation to practice religion

A nursing home is not granted registration until it compiles fully with the regulations. Registration is granted for a period of three years and nursing home proprietors must then apply for continued registration.

In accordance with the Health (Nursing Home) Act 1990 registered nursing homes are inspected by designated officers of the Health Board not less than once in every six month period.

**00/12/77 Matters for Mention**

*Agenda Item No. 4*

No matters for mention.

**00/12/78 Commissioning of Mental Health Services (Report 15/00)**

*Agenda Item No. 5*

Mr. McLoughlin presented report 15/00 to the Board on Commissioning of Mental Health Services. (*copy appended to Official Minute*).

Following Mr. McLoughlin's presentation of the report a lengthy debate took place to which the following members contributed:-

Dr. B. O'Connell, Dr. S. Barry, Mr. G. McGuire, Dr. M. Gueret, Cllr. Dr. D. Fitzpatrick, Dr. J. Reilly, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. C. Burke, Sen. T. Ridge.

Points raised included:-

- Further work should be done on developing policy in the mental health area;
- There was a need to develop facilities in the community for clients with autism and attention deficit disorder;
- Step down accommodation and facilities for clients with mental health in the community should be further developed;
- The policy and process of sectorialisation required review;
- Acquisition of properties on North Circular Road for Mental Health patients by the Northern Area Health Board.

Mr. McLoughlin explained that the report was a set of guidelines for commissioning and it was his intention to bring a more detailed policy document to the Board early in 2001.

**00/12/79 Notices of Motion**

*Agenda Item No. 6*

***Sen. Therese Ridge***

- (i) "That an up to date report be brought to this Board regarding the provision for homeless people, particularly young homeless in view of the decisions taken already to provide a comprehensive inclusive service".

The motion was proposed by Cllr Jim Reilly and seconded by Cllr Charles O'Connor.

The Chief Executive informed the meeting that the provision for accommodation for adult homeless was the responsibility for the Local Authorities, but the Area Health Boards had the responsibility for providing the health care services for the adult homeless.

A report on youth homelessness was presented to the Board in July 2000. However if the members required a further report the Chief Executive would arrange for same.

The motion was noted.

- (ii) ***“That this Board discuss the matter of children who, due to their health condition such as severe epilepsy or autism are excluded from the mainstream education system”***

It was agreed to defer this item until the next ordinary meeting of the Board.

✓ **00/12/80 Chief Executive’s Report**  
*Agenda Item No. 7*

The Chief Executive’s Report was circulated (*copy appended to the Official Minute*)

The report dealt with the following items:-

- Summary of Budget presented in the Dail on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2000. The Chief Executive circulated the relevant paragraphs relating to the health services for the information of members.
- Winter Initiative 2000/2001
- St. James’s Hospital, Bone Marrow Transplant Unit
- Extra Payment of Allowances for one Week in December, 2000
- Independent Newspapers (Ireland) Ltd – Article by Ms M E Synon
- Services to the Board, its Committees and Board Members

The CEO replied to questions raised by the following board members:-  
Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. M. Corrigan, Dr. J. Reilly, Dr. J. Fennell, Mrs. C. Quinn, Dr. W. O’Connell, Mr. G. McGuire.

The Chairman thanked the CEO for his report and especially for assigning Ms. Helen Stokes on a full-time basis to support the work of the Board and its Committees.

**00/12/81 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

*Agenda Item No. 8*

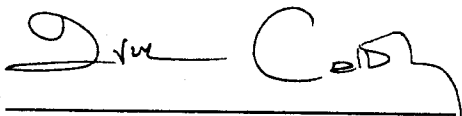
The date and time for the special Board Meeting in December was agreed for Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2000 at 19.00 hrs in Stewarts Hospital.

Meeting concluded at 8.15 p.m.

**CORRECT**

**Donal O Shea**

**Chief Executive**



**ALDERMAN IVOR CALLEY TD**  
**Chairman**

19 | 2 | 2001  
**DATE**