



**EASTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of proceedings of Board Meeting  
held in the Boardroom, Dr Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8  
on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2001 at 6.00 p.m.**

*Present*

Dr. S. Barry	Cllr. C. Burke
Cllr. L. Butler	Cllr. C. Byrne
Cllr. E. Byrne	Alderman I. Callely T.D.
Mr. M. Cowley	Cllr. T. Cullen
Cllr. A. Devitt	Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne
Cllr. P. Doran	Ald. Sen. J. Doyle
Cllr. A. Doyle	Mr. J. Fallon
Cllr. T. Fox	Ms. A. Harris
Ms. N. Harvey	Dr. R. Hawkins
Ms. M. Hoban	Dr. M. Laffoy
Mr. P. Ledwidge	Cllr. M. Miley
Dr. B. Murphy	Cllr. D. Murray
Cllr. E. O'Brien	Cllr. Dr. W. O'Connell
Cllr C. O'Connor	Cllr. M. O'Donovan
Dr. J. Reilly	Cllr. D. Tipping

*In the Chair*

Alderman I. Callely T.D.

*Apologies*

Mr. P. Aspell	Mr. G. McGuire
Dr. M. Molloy	Mr. L. Tuomey

*In Attendance*

Mr. Donal O Shea, Chief Executive	
Mr. Pat McLoughlin	Mr. Martin Devine
Mr. Liam Woods	Ms. Fionnuala Duffy
Ms. Maureen Browne	Ms. Helen Stokes
Ms. Joanne Fitzpatrick	

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

**01/12/92                      CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

### **Committee Meetings**

The Chairman informed the members that the Acute Hospitals & Primary Care Committee meeting is to be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2001 at 6.00 p.m.

It was proposed that the January 2002 meeting of the Authority would be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> January and this was agreed.

**01/12/93                      Minutes of the proceedings of meeting held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>  
November 2001**

*Agenda Item No. 2*

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2001 (*copy appended to the official minute*), having being circulated, were proposed for adoption by Cllr. C. O'Connor, seconded by Cllr. E. O'Brien and agreed.

**01/12/94                      Questions to Chief Executive**

*Agenda Item No. 3*

Questions agreed to be put by the Board to the Chief Executive on the proposal of Dr. R. Hawkins and seconded by Cllr E. O'Brien.

### **3.1     Dr Siobhan Barry**

*"Could the CEO comment on the ERHA Strategic Framework for Children and Families, scheduled for development in 2001. Whether this initiative has yet commenced? The compilation (number and designation/specialty) of the committee that are charged to develop this framework? The expected date of publication of this strategy?"*

### **Reply**

The initiative to develop a Strategic Framework commenced in March 2001. Its purpose is to ensure that a planned, strategic approach is taken in developing services for childcare and youth homelessness. This process is being carried out on phased basis. Preparatory work began in March 2001 and the first meeting of the Steering Group which oversees the entire process, took place in May. Membership of the Steering Group is as follows:

Mr. Donal O Shea	Regional Chief Executive, ERHA, (Chair);
Mr. Pat McLoughlin	Director of Planning & Commissioning, ERHA;
Mr. Liam Woods	Financial Director, ERHA;
Ms. Angela Fitzgerald	Director of Monitoring & Evaluation, ERHA;
Ms. Maureen Windle	Chief Executive, NAHB;
Mr. Michael Lyons	Chief Executive, ECAHB;

Mr. Pat Donnelly	Chief Executive, SWAHB;
Ms. Alice O'Flynn	Director of Homelessness, ERHA;
Ms. Sheila O'Malley	Director of Nursing and Midwifery, ERHA.
Mr. Kieran Smyth	Assistant Principal Officer, DOH&C;
Ms. Madeleine Clarke	Consultant.

The Steering Group established a Regional Planning Team with the following terms of reference:

*"To develop a strategic framework for 'Children and Families' to:*

- (i) describe current service provision according to an agreed template;*
- (ii) assess the needs of vulnerable children and families in the Eastern region;*
- (iii) review relevant documentation to identify and agree recommendations requiring implementation; and*
- (iv) recommend a framework of strategic objectives to guide the development of service provision for children and families in the Eastern region.*

The Team has now completed its work on items (i), (iii) and (iv) but work is ongoing in relation to item (ii).

It is intended to present a progress report to the Board in February/March 2002.

### **3.2 Dr Siobhan Barry**

*"Could the CEO comment on the ERHA Review of Services for the Elderly - 10 Year Action Plan, tendered at November 2001 Board Meeting. Could the CEO comment on the proposed review of mental health services for the elderly referred to in the above plan, in terms of when such a review will be complete? The rationale of not considering the needs of the elderly in a holistic manner, a consequent of separating the physical and mental health needs of this care group?"*

#### **Reply:**

It was decided to carry out the review of services in the field of psychiatry of old age separately from the review of general services of the elderly for the following reasons.

1. At present the psychiatry of old age services deal mainly with those people who develop mental health problems when they are over the age of 65 years. There is a cohort of patients who, while being over 65 years, have developed their mental health problem earlier in life. This cohort is continuing to be treated by the adult mental health service and do not avail of the psychiatry of old age services. These groups would have been excluded from the review of elderly services.

2. The psychiatry of old age is a very specialised field and in some ways a very new field. In order to deal comprehensively and in depth with all who could benefit from this service it was decided to give it a particular focus. This separate review is being supported by independent and internationally recognised expertise in the person of Prof. Bob Woods, Clinical Psychologist for Older Persons in Wales.
3. The review of psychiatry of old age can now draw on the findings of the review of services for the elderly to ensure that the current review results in a seamless integrated set of services with patients getting the benefit of the most appropriate care for all their requirements both mental and physical
4. The report on services for the elderly has been made available at a much earlier date than that which would have been possible if it awaited the outcome of the current work on the psychiatry of old age.

***Time Table Targets:***

Interim Report	April 2002
Final Report	September 2002

**3.3 Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne**

***“Could the CEO identify for the Authority how a role can be played by this body in the prevention of violence against babies and children from the hands of their parents?”***

**Reply:**

The legislative basis for dealing with children in need of care and protection is provided by the Child Care Act 1991. The promotion of the welfare of children is the paramount principle underpinning the Act.

The Government published National Guidelines in September 1999 called “Children First” which apply to health boards, Government Departments and to organisations which provide services to children.

Parents/carers are primarily responsible for the safety and welfare of the children in their care. The health board is the statutory body responsible for child protection and welfare and must intervene when children are harmed or fail to receive adequate care. However, health board professionals are dependent on the co-operation of members of the public and professionals in contact with children to bring child care and protection concerns to their attention in as comprehensive a fashion as possible.

In 2001 the Eastern Regional Health Authority specifically targeted family support services as a strategic objective by providing 52% of the allocation that was not pre-committed towards support and prevention.

In the case of violence from the hands of their parents, the wider community of relatives, friends and neighbours are well placed to help. Early action by them is often the best way to protect children.

If any person has misgivings about the safety of a child and would find it helpful to discuss their concerns with a professional, they should not hesitate to contact staff in their health board such as a social worker, public health nurse or staff in a health centre to discuss this further. This should help them to decide whether or not to formally report their concerns to the health board.

The strategic framework for childcare services being prepared at present within the Authority will also focus on ensuring a better balance of services towards support and prevention and I will insure that the specific question raised by the member is addressed within this process. It is intended to present a progress report to the Board on the work of the project in February/March 2002.

#### 3.4 Cllr. Roisin Shortall

*“Will the CEO please explain the delay in the completion of the review of the adequacy of services for persons with Autistic Spectrum Disorder which I am informed is ongoing since February 2000, and when the steering committee is now likely to report?”*

#### **Reply:**

There is no delay in the Eastern Regional Health Authority’s review of services for persons with autism spectrum disorder. The steering committee was convened in March 2001. The terms of reference are as follows:

- 1) To advise the Executive of the Authority on the adequacy and inadequacy of the present range of services against recognised best practice nationally and internationally, for persons with a autism or autism spectrum disorder.
- 2) To assist the Executive of the Authority in preparing a development plan including structures and co-ordination of the service for the region, which will ensure the delivery of a comprehensive quality service.
- 3) To propose guidelines and protocols for best practice in the diagnosis, admission, discharge and transfer of persons with a diagnosis of autism or autism spectrum disorder within the eastern region.

The members of the steering committee for the review comprise statutory bodies, voluntary agencies, advocacy groups, clinicians and professionals involved in autism spectrum disorder.

The committee have met regularly throughout the year to complete their work. The next meeting of the review committee is set for January 17<sup>th</sup> at which stage it is hoped the recommendations will be fully discussed and agreed. It is anticipated that this report will be before the Authority in March 2002.

**01/12/95 Matters for Mention**

*Agenda Item No 4*

There were no matters for mention

**01/12/96 Central Mental Hospital – Policy Document - Report 27/01**

*Agenda Item No. 5*

Mr. Pat McLoughlin, Director of Planning & Commissioning presented Report 27/01 – Central Mental Hospital – Policy Document (*copy appended to the official minute*). On the proposal of Ald. Sen J. Doyle, seconded by Mr. P. Ledwidge, the report was noted and agreed.

**01/12/97 Report on Sexually Transmitted Diseases - Report 28/01**

*Agenda Item No. 6*

Report 28/01 - Report on Sexually Transmitted Diseases (*copy appended to the official minute*) having previously been considered by the Continuing Care & Social Services Committee was recommended to the Board for adoption.

On a proposal Mr. J. Fallon, seconded by Cllr. Larry Butler, the Report on Sexually Transmitted Diseases - Report 28/01 was adopted.

**01/12/98 Primary Care – A New Direction**

*Agenda Item No. 7*

Ms. Fionnuala Duffy, A/Director of Monitoring & Evaluation, gave a presentation (*copy appended to the official minute*) to members on the recently published document Primary Care – A New Direction (Quality & Fairness – A Health System for You).

Following the presentation there was a lengthy debate to which the following members contributed:- the Chairman, Cllr. E. Byrne, Mr. M. O'Donovan, Dr. R. Hawkins, Dr. J. Reilly, Dr. B. O'Connell, Ms. M. Hoban, Cllr. L. Butler, Cllr. C. O'Connor.

The document Primary Care – A New Direction, was noted by members.

**01/12/99 Notice of Motion**  
**Agenda Item No. 8**

**8.1 Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne**

“That the ERHA facilitate the introduction of a screening programme for Chlamydia Trachomatis on young women in year 2002.”

The Chairman drew attention to the information note which had been circulated to the members by the Chief Executive as follows:-

*Our Department of Public Health, has issued a report titled "Review of Services for Sexually Transmitted Infections in the Eastern Regional Health Authority" (Report 28/01) which is presented under Item 6 on today's agenda. In this report, reference is made to Chlamydia which is the most common, curable, sexually transmitted disease in the Western World. Chlamydia infection is largely asymptomatic, but if it is left untreated it can have particularly severe long-term consequences for women, including Pelvic Inflammatory Disease, Ectopic Pregnancy and Infertility.*

*The Report stressed that Chlamydia Trachomatis Infection is a national issue and recommended that the prevention, control and management of Chlamydia infection should be clarified as a matter of urgency. In particular, there needs to be consensus as to which groups should be screened for Chlamydia and also there needs to be a consensus on appropriate treatment and management strategies including contact tracing.*

*The National Disease Surveillance Centre have established a Group to review the whole topic of sexually transmitted diseases in Ireland and have taken account of the ERHA Report and the recommendation therein relating to Chlamydia infection. One of the specific terms of reference for the Group established by the NDSC is to address the issue of screening for Chlamydia Trachomatis Infection and the management of the infection.*

The members noted the contents. On the proposal of Cllr J Dillon Byrne, seconded by the Chairman, the motion was moved for debate. Cllr. Dillon Byrne spoke to the motion and Cllr. L. Butler supported the motion. The motion was put and agreed unanimously.

**01/12/100 Chief Executive's Report**  
**Agenda Item No. 9**

The Chief Executive's Report (*copy appended to the official minute*) was circulated. The report dealt with the following items.

- Budget 2002 – information on the health services parts of the budget were circulated to members (*copy appended to the official minute*)
- Drop in Cancer Deaths in the Eastern Region
- Ms. Mary Hanafin TD Launches Special Residential Services Board
- Children’s Act 2001
- Development of Human Resource Strategy for the Eastern Region
- Public Health Department – Annual Report
- South Inner City GPs and Local Health Board – “Innovative Approaches to Primary Care”
- Launch of South Western Area Health Board Partnership Committee
- Overwhelming Public Support for Smoking Ban in Public Places
- Additional Bed Capacity
- Rehabilitation & Continuing Care
- Recent Publications


On the proposal of Ald. Sen. J. Doyle, seconded by Cllr. A. Doyle, the Chief Executive’s Report as circulated was noted.

**01/12/101     Date & Time of Next Meeting**  
*Agenda Item No.10*

The date and time for the next Meeting was agreed for Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2001 at 6.30 p.m. in ERHA Offices, Mill Lane, Palmerstown, Dublin 20.

The meeting concluded at 8.15 p.m.

**CORRECT**  
**Donal O Shea**  
**Chief Executive**

  
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**ALDERMAN IVOR CALLELY TD**  
**Chairman**

9/1/02  
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**DATE**