

EASTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

**Minutes of proceedings of Board Meeting
held in the Board Room, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8
on Thursday 1st March 2001 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present

Mr. P. Aspell	Dr. S. Barry
Mr. G. Brady	Cllr. C. Burke
Cllr. L. Butler	Cllr. M. Corrigan
Cllr. C. Byrne	Cllr. E. Byrne
Ald. I. Callely TD	Mr. M. Cowley
Cllr. Ann Devitt	Dr. M. Molloy
Cllr. T. Cullen	Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne
Mr. J. Dolan	Cllr. P. Doran
Ald. Sen. J. Doyle	Cllr. A. Doyle
Mr. J. Fallon	Sen. Dr. D. Fitzpatrick
Cllr. T. Fox	Dr. M. Gueret
Dr. K. Harkin	Ms. A. Harris
Dr. R. Hawkins	Ms. N. Harvey
Mrs. C. Quinn	Dr. M. Laffoy
Mr. P. Ledwidge	Cllr. C. McGrath
Mr. G. McGuire	Cllr. M. Miley
Dr. B. Murphy	Sen. S. O'Fearghail
Sen. T. Ridge	Cllr. E. O'Brien
Cllr Dr W. O'Connell	Dr. P. O'Connell
Cllr C. O'Connor	Cllr. J. Reilly
Mr. L. Tuomey	Cllr. D. Tipping
Cllr. R. Shortall T.D.	Ald. M. Mooney

In the Chair

Alderman Ivor Callely TD

Apologies

Cllr. L. Creaven	Dr. J. Reilly
Ms. M. Hoban	

In Attendance

Mr. Donal O Shea	Ms. Angela Fitzgerald	Mr. Martin Devine
Mr. Pat McLoughlin	Ms. Maureen Browne	Mr. Alastair Graham
Dr. Brian O'Herlihy		
Ms. Mo Flynn		

The Chairman read the Opening Prayer

01/03/11 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

Agenda Item No. 1

- Apologies for non attendance were received from Dr. James Reilly, Ms. Marie Hoban and Cllr. Liam Creaven.
- The Steering Committee for Acute Hospital and Primary Care will meet at 6.00p.m. on 26th March 2001 in the Board Room, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8.
- The Steering Committee for Continuing Care and Social Services will meet at 10.30a.m. on 5th March 2001 in the Boardroom, Dr. Steevens' Hospital.
- The Finance & Property Committee Meeting will have two meetings before the end of March 2001 in the Boardroom, Dr. Steevens' Hospital. Dates to be agreed as soon as possible.

01/03/12 Minutes of proceedings of meeting held on Thursday 1st February 2001

Agenda Item No. 2

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1st February 2001 (copy appended to the official minute), having being circulated were proposed for adoption by Mr. G. Brady and seconded by Cllr. J. Reilly and agreed.

01/03/13 Adoption of Financial Statement for the Eastern Regional Health Authority 2000

Agenda Item No. 3

The Board of the Authority agreed to delegate the function of adopting the draft accounts of the Eastern Regional Health Authority for period 1st March 2000 to 31st December 2000 (i.e. 10 months) to the Finance & Property Committee. The accounts when audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General will be submitted to the Board with the Auditor's report for consideration. This was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. J.D. Byrne and seconded by Dr. R. Hawkins.

01/03/14 Question to Chief Executive

Agenda Item No. 4

Question agreed to be put by the Board to the Chief Executive on proposal of Cllr. J.Dillon Byrne and seconded by Dr. R. Hawkins.

Q 4.1

Cllr. Roisin Shortall, T.D.

"To ask the CEO, to outline the action the health authority has taken in response to the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General on Special Housing Aid for

the Elderly which showed that estimated waiting lists in the Eastern Region were far greater than in other health board areas, and that the number of completed works per head of elderly population was much fewer; the reasons for the delay in reforming, properly financing and otherwise resourcing the Eastern Community Works; and the proposals, if any, to address the long waiting times.”

Reply

I have circulated to members the recent report of the Comptroller and Auditor General on the Scheme for Special Housing Aid for the Elderly. Overall the Report deals favourably with the scheme. The Report deals with the years 1997-1999.

The figures for the East indicate longer waiting times and a higher cost per job than in other regions. It also indicates that the amount of the funding given to the East is not proportional to the population of the region.

The scheme is now being implemented by the three Area Boards and I have taken up with the management of the Boards the need to address the issues raised in this Report. In the meantime the Authority is addressing the need for significant increase in the level of funding for the region.

01/03/15 Matters for mention

Agenda Item No. 5

The report on “Working hours of non consultant Hospital Doctors” was circulated to each Board member. Dr. M. Molloy stated that this was very important report and it should be referred to the Committee on Acute Hospital and Primary Care. The recommendations from this Committee to be referred back to the Board at a future date. Meeting agreed on the proposal by Dr. M. Molloy seconded by Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne.

01/03/16 Home First (Report No. 03/01)

Agenda Item No. 6

Ms. Mo Flynn and Mr. Alaister Graham presented report number 01/03, entitled (Home First) to the Board (*copy appended to the Official Minute*).

Following the presentation of the report a lengthy debate took place to which the following members contributed:-

Cllr. R. Shortall T.D., Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne, Dr. M. Laffoy, Ms. C. Quinn, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. J. Reilly, Mr. J. Dolan, Mr. M. Cowley, Sen. T. Ridge, Ald. I. Callely T.D., Mr. G. McGuire, Dr. R. Hawkins, Cllr. P. Doran and Cllr A. Devitt.

Among the issues raised in the debate were the following:-

1. The need for enhanced nursing home subvention criteria.
2. The need to provide an integrated and seamless service for older persons between the hospitals and the community services.
3. Assessment for aids and appliances for older people and the need for co-ordination between hospital and community OT services.
4. The need to increase support and remuneration to carers.

5. The current status of the 10-year action plan agreed by the former Eastern Health Board.
6. The need for flexible planning of Community Nursing Units.
7. The need to consider the specific requirements of older people living in rural areas such as transportation etc
8. The expansion of the A & E department at St. James's Hospital.
9. Difficulties in replacing staff who had done so much work for older people on a voluntary basis – e.g. meals on wheels.

In response to the debate Mr. Pat McLoughlin, Director of Planning & Commissioning confirmed that these are pilot projects and will be reviewed within 12-months with the intention of rolling it out to other hospitals if it proves satisfactory. In responding to the issues raised he said that:-

1. as private nursing homes do not provide all the necessary care, a variety of support care is required.
2. in addressing the need for an integrated service for older persons, the Service Plan gives increasing support to community services and the recruitment of nurses from overseas will help in re-opening beds in long-stay care units. In addition, there is a commitment to move resources to community care and to improve the co-operation between the acute hospital and community services.
3. an assessment of the need for aids and appliances is currently being undertaken in the Area Health Boards. Area Health Boards are responsible for the implementation of special housing aid for the elderly and they will liaise directly with the Local Authorities.
4. the Department of Social Community and Family Affairs is currently reviewing the payments made to carers. Under the national agreement there should be no differences between Health Boards.
5. the recommendations of the 10-year plan are being implemented but on-going reviews are advisable in view of the socio-demographic changes and the fact that voluntary providers were not involved in the original review.
6. the Authority will take the matter up with the Department of Health & Children concerning the building specification for the community nursing units as a matter of urgency.
7. the review of services will address the needs of older people in both rural and urban communities.
8. additional monies have been made available for the A&E department in St. James's Hospital. The Authority invested £5million in developing this department.
9. a review has been undertaken of the community ward teams and while they operate well in many areas some teams are not operating as originally planned.

The Chairman thanked the two presenters for their report.

On the proposal of Cllr E. Byrne, seconded by Cllr. C. O'Connor, Report 03/01 Home First was noted. The Chairman asked that a progress report be brought back to the Board at a later stage.

01/03/17 To note reports from Committees of the Board
Agenda Item No. 7

The Chief Executive gave an update on Report No. 08/00 - Services for Older People and Report No. 16/00 - Commissioning of Services for Children and Families which had been presented to the Continuing Care and Social Services Committee at their recent meetings.

The reports from the Committees of the Board was proposed by Cllr. C. O'Connor and seconded by Dr. R. Hawkins.

01/03/18 To note membership of Comhairle na nOspidéal
Agenda Item No. 8

The Chief Executive presented the membership of Comhairle na nOspidéal (copy appended to the official minute) to the Board.

The Chairman congratulated Mr. P. McLoughlin on his appointment to Comhairle na nOspidéal.

The following members expressed their dissatisfaction at the membership of Comhairle na nOspidéal: - Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. C. O'Connor, Cllr. A. Devitt and Dr. M. Molloy and the following issues were raised in the debate: -

- The non-appointment of a junior doctor to Comhairle.
- The absence of a consultant from Tallaght in the membership of Comhairle.
- Concern about the delay in appointment of locum psychiatrists.
- A request for a presentation to the Board on the role of Comhairle and its relationship with the Board of the Authority.

The Chairman advised the Board that Mr. P. McLoughlin would undertake to raise the first three points with Comhairle na nOspidéal and that the Protocol Committee would agree the format which the presentation should take.

The membership of Comhairle na nOspidéal was noted on the proposal of Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne and seconded by Dr. R. Hawkins.

01/03/19 Notice of Motion
Agenda Item No. 9

9.1 Cllr. Roisin Shortall, T.D.

"That the CEO report on the current status of the Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital Development Plan and when decisions are likely to be taken in relation to its implementation"

The motion was proposed by Cllr. R. Shortall and seconded by Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne.

In moving her motion Cllr. R. Shortall T.D., asked why the Authority has delayed the implementation of the Development Plan for Cappagh Hospital when the Department of Health & Children had already approved this plan.

A debate took place on this to which the following members contributed:-

Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne, Cllr. E. Byrne, Cllr. Ann Devitt, Dr. M. Gueret, Dr. Ray Hawkins, Cllr. R. Shortall T.D. and Ald. I. Callely T.D.

The following additional issues were raised: -

- The Cappagh Board wish to have a stand-alone facility.
- Possible sale of current land bank.
- Possible development of dedicated sports clinic.
- Patient flows from outside eastern region.

By way of background, Mr. P. McLoughlin explained that the Project Team for Cappagh Hospital was established in August 1997 and approved by the Department of Health & Children. However, the Department of Health and Children had not included this project for funding within the National Development Plan. In April 2000 the brief was submitted to the ERHA. He stated that the Authority is fully supportive of a development at Cappagh but the development as submitted did not include any provision for the extension of the capacity of the hospital to treat more patients. The management of Cappagh Hospital has been fully briefed in relation to the requirements of the Authority and a revised plan is being drawn up for submission to the Authority. He stated that it was envisaged that the revised submission would take into account the regional needs for orthopaedic services. He reiterated that the Authority would be anxious to ensure that the current practice of dealing with planned activity would continue. Finally he stated that the disposal of any lands on this site is a matter for the Sisters of Charity.

01/03/20 Chief Executive's Report
Agenda Item No. 10

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

The Report dealt with the following items: -
Report of Social Services Inspectorate on Newtown House
Comhairle na nOspideal approves four consultant posts for the Mater Hospital
Restrictions on availability of Paracetamol
Beaumont Hospital re-opens closed beds
Mater Hospital Radiology Department commended
Daughters of Charity open new special care unit
Multi-cultural St. Patrick's Day
Kildare/west Wicklow GP Co-op
Nursing Home Subvention

On a proposal by Cllr. E. Byrne and seconded by Dr. R. Hawkins, the Chief Executive's Report was noted.

A lengthy debate took place on the Report of Social Services Inspectorate on Newtown House to which the following members contributed: -
Cllr. R. Shortall T.D., Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne, Ald. Ivor Callely T.D., Mr. P. Ledwidge, Dr. M. Gueret, Ms. N. Harvey, Dr. S. Barry, Mr. J. Dolan, Dr. M. Laffoy, Cllr. A. Devitt, Ald. Sen. J. Doyle, Cllr. A. Doyle.

The following issues were raised in relation to the Report of the Social Services Inspectorate on Newtown House: -

- Unqualified staff in residential care units are not trained to cope with the complex needs presented by young people needing residential care.
- Concern about involvement of a division of a security firm in the management of residential care for children is unsuitable because it is inappropriate for private security to be involved in this way.
- Standards of care required for children and young people needing secure accommodation.
- Recruitment and payment of staff. This care group is not attracting or retaining qualified staff and there is an insufficient number of social workers available.
- Review of residential childcare services in order to ensure that the highest standards are maintained and no further scandals take place.
- This issue should have taken a higher priority on the agenda for the meeting.
- It was acknowledged that the work with these children is exceptionally difficult and demanding because of the problems and behaviour presented by them.

The Chairman proposed that a special Board meeting should be held to deal specifically with children being cared for in residential units in the eastern region. This was seconded by Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne and agreed.

In reply to the debate the Chief Executive advised the Board that the East Coast Area Health Board had confirmed that Newtown House is closed and accordingly there are no children in care on these premises. He explained that three separate inquiries are currently ongoing in relation to this institution and that members will be issued with the reports as soon as they are completed.

In relation to the placement of the item on the agenda, he explained that the agenda for the meeting was prepared prior to the publication of the report and that the report was circulated to members immediately on receipt by management. He confirmed that action is being taken to implement the recommendations in the report and that meetings have been held with the Chief Executive Officers of the Area Health Boards as the Area Health Boards are responsible for the delivery of services in their own areas. He stated that further meetings are planned. He acknowledged that there is a difficulty in recruiting staff for childcare services but assured the Board that every effort is being made to ensure that the highest standards of care are provided for this group of children. He stated that

the development plans for childcare in the Service Plan approved by the Board address all the concerns raised in the report.

Cllr. R. Shortall T.D. proposed an amendment that the three Area Health Board Chief Executives and their senior management attend the Board meeting and list for members the names of the residential centres where children were being cared for, the number of children in each centre and the number and qualifications of staff.

The Chairman indicated the difficulty in fully meeting Deputy Shortall's requirements but asked the Chief Executive to ensure that information being sought by Deputy Shortall would be provided at the Special Meeting.

01/03/21 Date & Time of Next Meeting

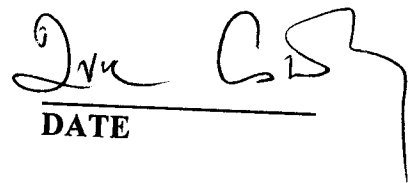
Agenda Item No. 11

The date and time of the next meeting of the Authority was agreed for Thursday 5th April 2001 at 6.00 p.m. in the Board Room, Dr. Steevens' Hospital.

The meeting concluded at 9.25 p.m.

CORRECT
Donal O Shea
Chief Executive

ALDERMAN IVOR CALLELY TD
Chairman



DATE