



EASTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

**Minutes of proceedings of Board Meeting
held in the Board Room, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8
on Thursday 6th September 2001 at 6.00 p.m.**

Present

Mr. P. Aspell	Dr S. Barry
Cllr. C. Burke	Mr G Brady
Cllr. L. Butler	Cllr. C. Byrne
Cllr. E. Byrne	Cllr. M. Corrigan
Mr M Cowley	Cllr. T. Cullen
Cllr. A. Devitt	Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne
Cllr. J. Dolan	Cllr. A. Doyle
Dr K Harkin	Ms. N. Harvey
Ms A Harris	Cllr. D. Heney
Ms M Hoban	Dr. M. Laffoy
Mr. P. Ledwidge	Cllr C. McGrath
Mr. G. McGuire	Dr. M. Molloy
Ald. M. Mooney	Dr. B. Murphy
Mr. M. Murphy	Cllr. E. O'Brien
Cllr. Dr. W. O'Connell	Cllr. C. O'Connor
Sen. S. O'Fearghail	Ms. C. Quinn
Dr J. Reilly	Cllr. R. Shorthall T.D.
Mr. L. Tuomey	

In the Chair

Alderman Ivor Callely TD

Apologies

Mr J. Fallon	Dr P. O Connell	Ald. Senator J. Doyle
Senator T. Ridge	Cllr. D. Tipping	Cllr. D. Murray.

In Attendance

Mr. Donal O Shea	Mr. Liam Woods	Ms. Maureen Browne
Ms Fionnuala Duffy	Ms. Angela Kerrigan	Mr Pat McLoughlin
Ms Carol Ivory	Ms Helen Stokes	

01/07/72 CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

Agenda Item No. 1

The Chairman advised the Board that apologies for non attendance were received from Mr. Joe Fallon, Dr. Philip O'Connell, Senator Joe Doyle, Senator Therese Ridge, Cllr. Don Tipping and Cllr. Dermot Murray.

He also notified the Board of the dates and times of the next meetings of the Standing Committees.

01/07/73 Minutes of proceedings of meeting held on Thursday 5th July 2001

Agenda Item No. 2

The draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and the Ordinary meeting held on 5th July 2001 (copy appended to the official minute), having being circulated, were proposed for adoption by Cllr E O'Brien, seconded by Cllr C O' Connor, and agreed.

01/07/74 Questions to Chief Executive

Agenda Item No.3

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

3.1 Dr. Siobhan Barry

Regarding the National Children's Strategy (published November 2000):

Could the CEO comment on whether funding has been received to enable the implementation of this strategy, and if so, on its adequacy? Have time lines for implementation been set out, and when might this strategy be operational in the ERHA?

Reply

The Strategy launched at the beginning of this year provides a framework for the development of legislation, policy and services for children and families. The emphasis is on the coordination and integration of activity in areas which cut across Departmental and agency boundaries at national and local level. The National Children's Office have set the two major areas of priority for 2002 as the implementations of the new Children Act and the National Play & Recreation Policy.

Although no specific funding is allocated for the implementation of the National Children's Strategy, the overall funding provided by the Department of Health & Children for Child Care in this year's Letter of Determination, all provides for the development of services towards the strategic objectives set out in the strategy.

Working towards enabling children to achieve their maximum health potential	£0.115m
Creating a better balance between prevention, early intervention and	£5.485m

treatment/crisis management	
Improving the identification, reporting, assessment, treatment and management of Child abuse	£1.000m
Providing Alternative Care where necessary	£6.779
Continuing to respond to children and families in crisis	£1.195

The national goals and operational principles set out in the strategy have informed the Authority's objectives and priorities in this year's Service Plan for Children & Families. The commissioning principles under which service development for 2001 were agreed are directly aligned with the operational principles as set out in the strategy.

These goals and principles have also determined the planning process for further development of the services, underpinning the current development of a strategic framework of children and families services in the eastern region in terms of the

- greater emphasis on assessment of need towards an evidenced-based approach to decision making on service provision,
- the empowerment and support of families and communities as the most effective way of supporting families emphasising prevention and early intervention,
- better coordination with the voluntary sector towards a more integrated and accessible service and
- better research, evaluation and monitoring including the views of those children and families accessing our services.

The Strategy has a 10-year timeframe and its full implementation, covering all dimensions of childhood development, is dependent on developments across many sectors such as education & learning, play, leisure & cultural activities, housing & environment, in addition to health and well-being.

While the strategy is already operational in the Eastern Region, a precise timetable for full implementation has not been agreed at this stage. The Authority however, as part of its planning and assessment of needs role, will be identifying the on-going requirements to implement it in the Eastern Region.

3.2 Mr. Paul Ledwidge

Could the Chief Executive clarify the policy in relation to the purchase of equipment for clients who are medical card holders.

Issue 1

In attempting to maximise value for money and to spread the available residential care resources many agencies have developed five day residential placements and time share placements.

Community Care however will only purchase equipment for one residence and as

many of our clients have significant physical disabilities this is posing a serious problem for agencies.

I would request that a policy change be implemented to enable clients to move between their residential placement and their family residence.

Issue 2

Community Care do not supply either buggies or car seats for children under two years. The reason outlined is that all children under two years require a car seat/buggy for travel. Many clients however have significant physical problems which require postural support, positioning and seating to prevent deterioration and as buggies can cost in excess of £1,000 the provision of these buggies and car seats can put a significant strain on parents.

I would request that the Chief Executive review this policy with a view to decisions being made for the purchase of buggies and car seats on the basis of need.

Reply

The provision of equipment for a person with a disability is specific to each individual and based on an assessment of needs.

The Authority has already decided that one of the commissioning principles is to support people with a disability to live as independently as possible in the community.

We will review with the Area Health Boards the issues raised in the question with a view to making the process for the provision of special equipment as easy and as user friendly as possible.

3.3 Cllr Eamon O' Brien

"To ask the CEO if he would respond to the heartfelt letter from (details supplied) on the issue of adopting foreign children. In some cases would-be adoptive parents are waiting up to four and a half years for assessment – surely this process is wrong and requires an immediate overhaul. Will the CEO make a general statement of intent in this regard".

3.4 Dr Siobhan Barry

Could the CEO comment on the assertions being made by the International Adoption Association:

- That the waiting list and waiting time for Inter Country Adoption is getting steadily longer,
- That ERHA productivity in this area is inexplicably low compared with other Health Boards – despite additional resources being committed to this service.

Reply to questions 3.3 Cllr Eamon O' Brien and 3.4 Dr Siobhan Barry

The current arrangements and delays in dealing with inter country adoption in this region are unacceptable.

Following discussion with the Chief Executives of the three Area Boards it has been decided that as a matter of urgency each Board will put in place its own unit to deal with the service in its area. The present unit will become the unit for the South Western Area Health Board and new units will be set up in both the Northern Area and the East Coast Area.

Detailed proposals are being sent in to me and it is my intention to progress the project without delay.

The objectives are to eliminate or at least significantly reduce the waiting times as quickly as possible and to speed up the whole process.

3.5 Cllr Roisin Shortall T.D.

“Will the CEO outline the Authority’s policy/strategy in relation to the recruitment of extra intensive care nurses who deal specifically with children”.

Reply

The recruitment of intensive care nurses is a matter for the individual hospitals themselves. The Authority, however, through the Nursing & Midwifery Planning & Development Unit has been in contact with the hospitals concerned to provide advice, support and guidance with regard to recruitment and retention initiatives, professional development of staff and the development of clinical nurse specialists and advanced nurse practitioner posts. While hospitals with paediatric intensive care units have had difficulty in recruiting the necessary staff to fulfil its full complement, a number of initiatives have been developed by the hospitals which has led to an improvement in the situation. The following initiatives have been taken:

- On-going recruitment drives targeting areas such as UK, Belfast, Philippines and Scotland.
- Regular attendance at job fairs in Ireland and the UK.
- Internal recruitment, i.e. staff transfer from other clinical areas in the hospital in conjunction with a comprehensive education programme.
- Individual nurses from the post graduate course have been met and interviewed with a view to ensuring that they consider the option of applying for intensive care training.

The various developments have led to a total of 52 overseas staff being recruited to work in ICU and a turnover in one hospital of 14% in intensive

care compared with 40% for the previous year. In September 2001 a higher diploma course in nursing studies (paediatric critical care / paediatric accident and emergency) is taking place. This is a joint initiative between Temple Street Hospital and Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children in Crumlin with nurses from both hospitals attending the course.

The Authority has established a review group which is due to meet in September which will examine the long term and short term solutions with regard to capacity and staffing arising from a study undertaken by the Intensive Care Society of Ireland. This review group will address the general issues around adult ICUs and then move to the specific concerns of the paediatric hospitals as identified in the Intensive Care Society of Ireland report. The results of this review will be brought before the Board for consideration.

01/07/75 Matters for mention

Agenda Item No.4

Cllr C O Connor asked a question about the closure of Charles Street Homeless Unit arising from the decision of staff to discontinue working in Charles Street for health and safety reasons. The Chairman referred to the report on the matter in the Chief Executive's Report and it was agreed to deal with the matter under this item on the agenda. The following members also contributed to the discussion, Cllr C Burke, the Chairman, Dr S Barry, Cllr E Byrne and Cllr A Devitt. Members were concerned that information regarding the service was given to members of the Northern Area Health Board but information of relevance to the Region was not given to all members.

The Chief Executive's Report (copy appended to the official minute) on the matter was noted. It was agreed that each Area Board when circulating information to its Board members would also circulate the information to the all the members of ERHA Board.

01/07/76 Cardiovascular Health Strategy in the Eastern Region (Report No. 21/01)

Agenda Item No.5

The Chief Executive presented Report No. 21/01 – Cardiovascular Health Strategy in the Eastern Region (copy appended to the official minute). On the proposal of Cllr C O Connor, seconded by Mr P Aspell, Report No 21/01 was adopted by the Board.

01/07/77 Development of Day Surgery /Procedures in the Northern Area (Report No. 22/01)

Agenda Item No.6

The Chief Executive presented Report No. 22/01 – Development of Day Surgery/Procedures in the Northern Area (copy appended to the official minute). A debate followed to which the following members contributed:- Chairman, Mr G Brady, Mr M Cowley and Cllr T Cullen. On the proposal of Mr L Tuomey, seconded by Mr P Aspell, Report No 22/01 was adopted by the Board.

7.1 Cllr R Shortall

That in view of the unacceptably long waiting lists for social work services where 1700 children are waiting to be allocated a social worker in this Authority's area, that the CEO bring forward an urgent plan to deal with this crisis situation.

On the proposal of Cllr R Shortall, seconded by Dr S Barry, the motion was moved for debate. Cllr. R Shortall spoke to the motion and the following members contributed to the debate:- Dr S Barry, Cllr C Burke, Cllr. C Quinn, Cllr E Byrne, Dr J Reilly. The Chief Executive circulated a report on the matter and agreed to bring a report to the next Board meeting on the matter. The motion was put and agreed unanimously.

7.1 Cllr. T. Fox, Cllr. L. Butler, Cllr. A. Doyle, Dr R. Hawkins, Dr. M. Molloy, Mr. J. Fennell, Ald. Sen. J. Doyle, Cllr. B. O'Connell, Cllr. P. Doran, Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne, Cllr. O Mitchell, Cllr. M. Corrigan, Mr. P. Ledwidge, Mr. J. Dolan, Mr. G. McGuire, Ms. N. Harvey, Ms. M. Hoban Dr. B. Murphy.

The East Coast Area Health Board members are very concerned that the immediate development needs and priority upgrading programme for St. Columcille's Hospital is approved and proceeded with as quickly as possible. The members of the East Coast Area Board, therefore, request our colleagues in the Eastern Regional Health Authority to support this motion.

In supporting this motion, the East Coast Area Health Board members are concerned to ensure that appropriate and accessible hospital services are available to the population of Wicklow and South East Dublin and that the immediate and pressing shortfalls in these services are remedied as a matter of urgency. The immediate short term, priority upgrading plans already submitted amount to an additional £8.8m, pending the finalisation of the overall development plans for the hospital. Priority needs in Accident and Emergency and day procedures and accommodation for newly approved and prospective Consultant posts in Anaesthetics, Accident and Emergency, Cardiology, Urology, Neurology and Paediatrics are included in this short term development programme which will significantly improve the efficiency of the hospital.

The East Coast Area Health Board members acknowledge and welcome the previous allocation of £5m of National Development Plan funding and ask that the additional £8.8m be provided.

On the proposal of Cllr L Butler, seconded by Dr B. O'Connell, the motion was moved for debate. The following members contributed to the debate: Cllr L Butler, Dr B O'Connell, Cllr J Dillon Byrne, Cllr E Byrne, Dr S Barry, Dr M Molloy, Cllr C Burke, Cllr M Corrigan, Ms C Quinn, Cllr M Hoban, Mr P Ledwidge, Mr J Dolan, Cllr A Doyle, Dr K Harkin, Mr G McGuire, Cllr A Devitt, Cllr C O'Connor, Mr M Cowley. The Chief Executive circulated a report on the matter.

On the proposal of Cllr L Butler, seconded by Cllr. J Dillon Byrne, the motion was agreed by the Board.

01/07/79 Chief Executive's Report
Agenda Item No.8

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

- St Joseph's Hospital, Raheny
- Homeless Unit, Charles Street
- Further £8.9m allocation to Waiting List Initiative
- Approved Capital funding for Intellectual Disability
- Mobile Drugs Clinic
- Update on Phase 3A of Naas General Hospital
- Presentation of certificates by Chairman at St Michael's House
- Public Health (Tobacco) Bill 2001
- Patient Information Leaflet for James Connolly Memorial Hospital
- Report of the Review Group on Audit in the Health System
- The appointment of a new CEO – Beaumont Hospital
- Population increase

There was a debate on the Chief Executive's Report to which the following members contributed: The Chairman, Dr J Reilly, Cllr E Byrne and Mr G McGuire. In the course of the debate, congratulations and good wishes were expressed to Mr John Lamont on his appointment as Chief Executive of Beaumont Hospital.

On the proposal of Cllr E Byrne, seconded by the Chairman, the Chief Executive's Report as circulated was noted.

01/07/71 Date and Time of Next Meeting
Agenda Item No.9

The date and time of the next meeting was agreed for Thursday 4th October 2001 at 6.00pm in the Board Room, Dr Steevens' Hospital.

The meeting concluded at 8.25pm.

CORRECT
Donal O Shea
Chief Executive



ALDERMAN IVOR CALLELY TD
Chairman



DATE