



**EASTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY**  
**Minutes of proceedings of Board Meeting**  
**held in the Boardroom, Dr Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8**  
**on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2002 at 16:00**

*Present*

Dr Siobhan Barry	Cllr. Christy Burke
Cllr. Catherine Byrne	Cllr. Eric Byrne
Ald. Ivor Callely TD	Mr. Martin Cowley
Ald. Sen Joe Doyle	Mr. Joe Fallon
Cllr. Dr. Dermot Fitzpatrick	Dr. Maurice Gueret
Dr. Kieran Harkin	Ms. Ann Harris
Ms. Noeleen Harvey	Ms. Maria Hoban
Mr. Paul Ledwidge	Dr. Bernard Murphy
Mr. Michael Murphy	Cllr. Dermot Murray
Cllr. Eamonn O'Brien	Cllr. Dr. William O'Connell
Senator Sean O'Fearghail	Mr. Larry Tuomey

*In the Chair*

Alderman I. Callely T.D.

*Apologies*

Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne; Mr. John Dolan; Cllr. Colm McGrath; Mr. Gerry McGuire;  
Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

*In Attendance*

Mr Donal O Shea, Mr Pat McLoughlin, Mr. Liam Woods; Ms Sile Fleming;  
Ms. Jennifer Doran; Ms. Patricia Blunden; Mr. Jack Doherty, Ms. Bridget McGuane;  
Dr. Mary Condon, Ms. Helen Stokes, Ms. Joanne FitzPatrick,  
Mr. M. Davine

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

**04/02/32**

### **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

The Chairman advised the members that the decision to change the time of the April Board meeting from 18.00 to 16.00 hrs had been made by the Board's Protocol Committee at its meeting on the afternoon of Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2002, to facilitate members who had another commitment.

The Chairman congratulated Mr. Paul Ledwidge, St. Michael's House, on the recent opening of Belcamp and wished him well for the future.

#### **Condolences**

- The Chairman expressed the sympathy of the members of the Board to Cllr. Maria Corrigan on the death of her grandfather, Mr Tom Steevens R.I.P.
- He also expressed the sympathy of the members of the board to Ms. Suzanne Kirwan, Service Planner, ERHA, on the death of her father, John Kirwan R.I.P.

#### **Details of Forthcoming Meetings**

- Continuing Care and Social Services meeting will take place at 11:00am. on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> April in the Boardroom, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8.
- Joint Protocol and Finance & Property Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2002 at 2.00 p.m. in the ERHA Board Room, Mill Lane, Palmerstown.
- Acute Hospitals & Primary Care Meeting is scheduled for Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2002 at 6:00pm in the Boardroom, Dr Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8.
- The next meeting of the ERHA Board is scheduled for 6.00 p.m., Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May in the Boardroom, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8.

#### **Details of forthcoming Education Seminars & Visits**

At a Meeting of the Protocol Committee held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2002 it was agreed that Education Seminars and Visits be arranged for members. The following dates and venues have been agreed.

24<sup>th</sup> May 2002 - Woodenbridge Hotel, Avoca, Co. Wicklow  
Implications and Perspectives of the Health Strategy  
from an ERHA perspective.

**All day event and all members are asked to attend.**

29<sup>th</sup> May 2002 - Visit to North Eastern Health Board Region  
Proposed venues to visit  
Virginia Community Services Centre  
Psychiatric Unit in Navan  
New Health Centre in Dunshaughlin

**Members interested in attending this visit should contact Ms. Stokes**

**04/02/33 Minutes of the proceedings of meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2002.**  
*Agenda Item No. 2*

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2002 (*copy appended to the official minute*), having being circulated, were proposed for adoption by Ms. Maria Hoban, seconded by Cllr. Eamon O'Brien and agreed.

**04/02/34 Matters Arising**

Cllr. Burke asked on behalf of Dr. S. Barry, that a report on youth homelessness previously agreed for the May meeting, be now listed for the June board meeting.

The Chairman advised that this had been discussed but not agreed by members and he put it to the meeting that an updated report on youth homelessness be presented at the June meeting of the Authority. **This was agreed by members.**

**04/02/35 Questions to Chief Executive**  
*Agenda Item No. 3*

Questions agreed to be put by the Board to the Chief Executive on the proposal of Cllr. E. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. Dr D. Fitzpatrick.

**3.1 Dr Maurice Gueret**

Could the CEO clarify whether he has fulfilled his commitment to fund a Stroke Unit for 200 patients at the Adelaide & Meath Hospital, Tallaght as outlined in his report to the board at the June 2001 Eastern Regional Health Authority Meeting?

**Reply**

The development of stroke services in the region is an important ERHA policy objective. The rationale for the development of such services has been set out in the recently adopted "Service Review for Older Persons".

Proposals to further develop the Tallaght Hospital Stroke Service have been submitted to the Authority. The service and proposals for its further development were discussed in detail by officers of the Authority and relevant personnel from the Hospital at a meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2001. The Hospital has been advised that a high priority is attached to the further development of these services in 2002. The allocation of additional funding for this purpose – within the resources available to the Authority - is being addressed in the context of the 2002 Provider Plan Agreement with Tallaght Hospital, which is in the process of finalisation.

**3.2 Cllr. Roisin Shortall**

That the CEO report on the current waiting list for social work services in respect of child welfare cases, and provide details on the number of social workers allocated to this work in each of the area health boards together with

details of all current vacancies; and that he outline the steps being taken to address this problem.

**Reply**

(i) At its recent Board meeting in March, members received a detailed report and presentation on the progress being made in devising and implementing a detailed strategy and implementation process for the child protection and childcare. A steering committee, which I chair, and which includes senior management of the ERHA and the Chief Executives of the Area Health Boards has been directing the process. An Implementation Committee chaired by Pat Donnelly, Chief Executive of the South Western Area Health Board is now engaged in the implementation of the strategy.

(ii) The concept of the “waiting list” for social work service needs to be clarified.

I am informed by the Area Boards that immediately on referral for child care, every case is assessed and every priority case in which a child is at risk is assigned to a social worker without delay. Other cases are then listed for “assignment” to a social worker. Some of these are low-risk or no-risk cases for example adoption tracing. Others are cases in which a social worker involvement is desirable but not essential as in cases where the primary service is being delivered by another service.

Work is currently progressing on the roll out of case load information system which will enable the Boards to collect, analyse and present information so as to better quantify the various categories of need and risk. The figures being presented below, as supplied by the Area Health Boards, must be taken in the context that all higher risk cases are being managed.

**Waiting List Figures for Social Work Services as at March 31<sup>st</sup> 2002**

<b>East Coast Area Health Board</b>	<b>South Western Area Health Board</b>	<b>Northern Area Health Board</b>
200	829	1,243

(iii) **The number of Social Workers**

We continue to have difficulties in the filling of social worker posts although the position is improving.

- In the **East Coast Area Health Board** all vacancies will shortly be filled.
- In the **Northern Area Health Board** there is a complement of 114 social worker posts. Today 46 of these are vacant. However the outcome of a present competition is being processed with some possible success.

A recent overseas campaign has resulted in 11 social workers being accepted, and currently being processed for appointment.

A second campaign has identified 12 social workers which will shortly be interviewed.

I am informed by the Chief Executive of that Board that she is very optimistic regarding the situation which is developing there.

- In the **South Western Area Health Board** the position is somewhat similar to the Northern Area Health Board. There are 35 vacancies in a complement of 118 social workers and similar steps are being taken to identify and recruit additional staff.

### **3.3 Cllr. Roisin Shortall**

That the CEO report on the up to date position regarding assessments for the foreign adoptions with particular reference to commitments under the standardised framework.

#### **Reply**

I have already outlined to the Board the measures taken and being taken by the Area Health Boards to improve the throughput of the cases being assessed for inter-country adoption.

I have been informed that the Standardised Framework for Inter Country Adoption Assessment Procedures is now being used by all area Health Boards. Its purpose is to streamline assessment procedures for first and second assessments so that resources are used effectively; to ensure that 'best practice' is used; and to provide a transparent system that can be understood by all parties.

Figures from the three Area Health Boards indicate that the number of assessments carried in 2001 was 137 cases. This compares with a figure of 85 in 2000. It is intended to improve the throughput in 2002 and the Area Boards are taking all possible measures to achieve this. Measures being taken include:

- increase the number of social workers including overseas recruitment;
- more administrative support for social workers and free up their time to concentrate on assessments, post placement reports and other appropriate work;
- set up a 'one stop shop' facility to increase capacity for holding office based interviews and reduce the time that social workers spend travelling to and from clients.

### **3.4 Dr Siobhan Barry**

Re: Financial Allocations to the Area Health Boards and Second Schedule providers of the ERHA.

Could the CEO comment on when:

- The budgetary allocations to the Area Health Boards and to the various Second Schedule providers were finalised and agreed for 2000 and 2001.

- Is it envisaged that multi-annual budgeting will commence, given the strongly declared commitment to this form of financing at the ERHA inception?

### **Reply**

The ERHA enters into arrangements, which are agreements with providers in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Schedule under Section 10 of the Health (Eastern Regional Health Authority) Act, 1999. The Act specifies that such arrangements are agreements and must include reference to both service levels and resource. For the year 2000 the Authority came into existence on the 1<sup>st</sup> March and inherited budgets which had already been agreed between agencies and the Department of Health & Children. The ERHA honoured these arrangements for the remainder of the year and fully funded agencies in accordance with this.

The ERHA and health agencies in the eastern region engage in an ongoing process of discussion during 2001, which led to agreement in accordance with Section 10. These agreements were concluded at different times of the year with agencies depending upon the establishment of consensus across a wide range of service and resource issues. The Authority informed agencies of the base level of funding available for services in 2001 during the month of January 2001 and entered discussion relating to developments in the early part of 2001. The financial resource available to the Authority and therefore to agencies under Section 10 arrangements increases during the course of the year to reflect the funding of pay awards and the release of new development monies from the Department of Health & Children. The actual final monetary amounts available to agencies are therefore not known until late in the year but the terms of Section 10 arrangements with agencies makes provision for the payment of such additional resource.

The ERHA is committed to moving to multi annual budgeting on a phased basis and as funds become available to the Authority to enable the Authority to enter into multi annual contractual arrangements. The National Development Plan is already operating on a 7-year view from 2000 – 2006 inclusive and the Authority is aware of indicative resource availability under this programme up to 2006. The Department of Health & Children have indicated in their recently published Strategy Statement that multi annual budgeting will be introduced on a programme basis in the coming years and the Authority will play an active role with them in the implementation of these arrangements.

### **3.5**

**Dr Siobhan Barry**

Re: Review of the Psychiatry of Old Age Services

Could the CEO comment on whether sufficient competitive quotes were secured prior to the decision to award the tender for this review, in keeping with the procedures for contract agreements set out by the health service procurement policy?

**Reply**

The Authority used the procurement policy and followed the guidelines. Quotes for tenders under £20,000 do not have to be advertised in the public newspapers.

The Authority sought tenders from eight organisations. Five declined. The three tenders submitted were then evaluated and scored. The final selection criteria and proposed quoted prices are available on the record.

**3.6 Mr Joe Fallon**

Re: Funding for Intellectual Disability in Schedule two areas

Will the CEO please advise if SCHEDULE TWO agencies in the intellectual disability area have been funded for all agreed pay awards?

**Reply**

I can confirm that agreed pay awards have been funded. That is, an award that has been agreed by the Department and the Authority and with the Intellectual Disability Agencies have been fully funded. There are some awards and one in particular which is still a matter of discussion with the Department of Health & Children. I confirm that in the normal course of business the Authority will continue to work on these issues to conclusion. The matter has been discussed by the Board's Finance & Property Committee and the Committee has asked for a report on the matter.

**3.7 Mr. Michael Murphy**

Re: Development monies for 2002 in intellectual disability area

Would the CEO please advise the authority if development monies for 2002 in the intellectual disability area have been put on hold?

**Reply**

Service Development monies in the Intellectual Disability Area have not been put on hold by the ERHA. The total resource available to Intellectual Disability Agencies as with any other health agency funded by the Authority is governed by the Service Plan requirements as adopted by the Board of the Authority. I can confirm that the ERHA is seeking to reach agreement in the context of a service arrangement under Section 10 of the Health (Eastern regional Health Authority) Act, 1999 with each of the agencies funded by it, including the Intellectual Disability Agencies.

**3.8 Mr Paul Ledwidge**

Would the CEO please advise the authority of what the implications to the residential, respite and day waiting lists would be if the approved development monies for 2002 in the intellectual disability area are used to meet agreed pay awards?

## **Reply**

In view of reply to question 3.7 this question is hypothetical. To deal with it as such I confirm that the Eastern Regional Health Authority is acting within the context of the service plan as adopted by the Board of the ERHA.

### **04/02/36 Matters for Mention** *Agenda Item No 4*

There were no matters for mention

### **04/02/37 Recommendations from Committees of the Board.** *Agenda Item No. 5*

#### **(a) Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Committee**

At the meeting of the Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2002, the following motions were agreed and recommended to the Board: -

- 1. The Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Committee recommends to the Board that the Department of Health and Children be requested to provide the necessary capital and revenue resource, including specialist staff, to provide immediate care in appropriate settings for those elderly and acute chronic sick patients who are inappropriately placed in acute hospitals.*
- 2. The Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Committee recommends to the Board that the Department of Health and Children provide the necessary capital to enable the provision of accommodation for the young chronic sick in each area health board.*

**The members of the Acute Hospitals and Primary Care Committee supported the motions and the motions were agreed unanimously.**

#### **(b) Protocol Committee**

At the meeting of the Protocol Committee held on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2002 the following nominees were made and recommended to the Board for approval.

##### **The Meath Foundation**

Cllr. Catherine Byrne  
Cllr. Tommy Cullen  
Mr. Gerry McGuire  
Mr. Gerard Brady

##### **The Central Council of the Federated Dublin Voluntary Hospitals**

Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne  
Cllr. Don Tipping  
Ms. Anne Harris  
Senator Ald. Joe Doyle  
Cllr. Charlie O'Connor  
Cllr. Martin Miley



**The nominees to the Meath Hospital Foundation and the Central Council of the Federated Dublin Voluntary Hospitals were agreed.**

**04/02/38 Report on Human Resource Issues for the Board of the ERHA  
(Report 09/02)  
Agenda Item No. 6**

Ms. Sile Fleming, Director of Human Resources, presented Report 09/02 – Report on Human Resource Issues for the Board of the ERHA (*copy appended to the official minute*). She also gave a presentation to the members (*copy appended to the official minute*).

Following the presentation a debate took place to which the following members contributed – Dr. Maurice Gueret; Cllr. Eric Byrne; The Chairman; Ms. Maria Hoban; Mr. Paul Ledwidge; Ms. Ann Harris; Cllr. Christy Burke; Mr. Martin Cowley; Senator Joe Doyle.

Members expressed an interest in having a Charter of Rights for workers in the Health Service.

Ms Sile Fleming clarified the position in respect of the issues raised and indicated that meetings are ongoing with the various stakeholders. She advised the members that the East Coast Area Health Board has produced documentation, which is very successful in trying to share best practice and that a study is under way in relation to staff turnover in the Maternity Hospitals.

The Chairman recommended that the report on Human Resource issues for the Board of the ERHA (*Report 09/02*) be adopted by the Board. **On a proposal by Sen. Joe Doyle, seconded by Mr Paul Ledwidge, Report number 09/02 was adopted by the Board.**

**04/02/39 Notice of Motion  
Agenda Item No. 7**

**7.1 Cllr Eric Byrne**

This Authority views with alarm the proposed paltry increase of 3.8% in the medical card threshold particularly when you contrast this with the 9.4% average increase in Social Welfare.

This will result in large numbers of people on Social Welfare losing their entitlement and to dissuade people from taking up low paid employment. That childcare costs are not recognised as expenditure in calculating for Medical Card entitlement is of such scandalous proportions as to necessitate an urgent review of the methodology used to prepare the Medical Card guidelines.

**On the proposal of Cllr. Eric Byrne, seconded by the Dr. Kieran Harkin, the motion was moved for debate. Cllr. Byrne spoke to the motion and**

**Cllr. C. Burke supported the motion. The motion was put and agreed unanimously.**

**Mr O Shea agreed to circulate correspondence received from the Minister for Health & Children regarding Medical Cards to members.**

**7.2 Dr Kieran Harkin**

That the ERHA shall urge the Department of Health and Children to review as a matter of urgency the agreement whereby the GMS Capitation fees of patients over the age of seventy is multiplied by a factor of five for patients whose income at the time of application exceeds a predetermined limit.

**On the proposal of Dr. Kieran Harkin, seconded by the Dr. Maurice Gueret, the motion was moved for debate. Dr. Harkin spoke to the motion and Dr. Gueret supported the motion. The motion was put and agreed unanimously.**

**7.3 Mr. Joe Fallon, Mr. Michael Murphy & Mr. Paul Ledwidge**

That the Authority recommends to the CEO that monies approved by the Authority for the 2002 development of services for people with intellectual disability be used for that purpose and that monies outstanding in respect of agreed pay awards are funded separately without delay.

**On the proposal of Mr. Joe Fallon, seconded by the Mr. Paul Ledwidge, the motion was moved for debate. Mr Fallon spoke to the motion and Mr. Michael Murphy supported the motion. The motion was put and agreed unanimously.**

**04/02/40 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.

- Paediatric Surgery Services
- New Primary Care Task Force Appointed
- Strong Representation From The Eastern Region On National Treatment Purchase Team
- Establishment of new Mental Health Commission
- Mater Hosts First Festival Of Nursing
- Refuge Service Offers "Valuable And Necessary" Service To Domestic Violence Victims
- St. Michael's House: New Alzheimer Service
- Recent Publications

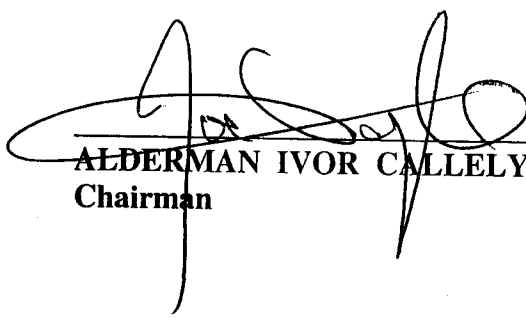
**It was agreed to note the Chief Executive's Report as circulated.**

**04/02/41      Date & Time of Next Meeting**  
**Agenda Item No. 9**

The date and time for the next meeting was agreed for Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2002 at 18:00 in the Board Room, Dr. Steevens' Hospital.

The meeting concluded at 18.30hrs.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**ALDERMAN IVOR CALLELY TD**  
**Chairman**

2/5/2002  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE**