


EASTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
Minutes of proceedings of Board Meeting
held in the Boardroom, Dr Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8
on Thursday, 6th June 2002 at 18:00

Present

Dr. Siobhan Barry
Mr. Gerard Brady
Cllr. Laurence Butler
Cllr. Catherine Byrne
Cllr. Eric Byrne
Ald. Ivor Callely
Cllr. Maria Corrigan
Mr. Martin Cowley
Cllr. Jane Dillon-Byrne
Mr. John Dolan
Ald. Sen. Joe Doyle
Mr. Joe Fallon
Dr. Kieran Harkin
Ms. Noeleen Harvey
Ms. Maria Hoban
Mr. Paul Ledwidge

Cllr. Colm McGrath
Cllr. Martin Miley
Dr. Michael Molloy
Ald. Mary Mooney
Dr. Bernard Murphy
Mrs. Catherine Quinn
Cllr. James Reilly
Dr. James Reilly
Sen. Therese Ridge

Cllr. Pádraig Toomey 

In the Chair

Ald. Ivor Callely

Apologies

Mr. Patrick Aspell, Mr Gerry McGuire, Cllr. Charles O'Connor

In Attendance

Mr Donal O Shea, Mr Martin Devine, Ms Sile Fleming,
Mr Liam Woods, Dr. Marie Laffoy, Dr. Siobhan Jennings,
Mr Tom Finn, Mr Willie Rattigan, Mr Jim Breslin, Ms Mo Flynn,
Ms Niamh Murphy, Ms Carol Ivory, Ms Helen Stokes.

Opening Prayer

06/02/53

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

Agenda Item No. 1

Condolences

The Chairman expressed the sympathy of the members of the Board to Dr. Ray Hawkins and his family on the recent death of his mother Mary Patricia Hawkins RIP and to Cllr. Tony Fox and his family on the recent death of his granddaughter Shannon Di Georgio RIP.

Details of Forthcoming Meetings/Events

- Continuing Care and Social Services meeting will take place at 11:00am, on Monday, 10th June in the Boardroom, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8. There will be a Presentation on Developments in Addiction Services.
- Acute Hospitals & Primary Care Meeting is scheduled for Monday, 17th June at 6:00 pm in the Boardroom, Dr Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8.
- The next meeting of the ERHA Board is scheduled for Thursday 6th June, following the Annual General Meeting in the Boardroom, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8 which will commence at 6.00 p.m.

06/02/54 MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF MEETING HELD ON 2ND MAY 2002

Agenda Item No. 2

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd May 2002 (copy appended to the official minute), having being circulated, were proposed for adoption by Cllr. Jim Reilly, seconded by Ald. Sen. Joe Doyle and agreed.

06/02/55 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. L. Butler and seconded by Cllr. J. Reilly.

3.1 Dr. Siobhan Barry

Re: The Authority's Review on Services for the Elderly

Could the Board be furnished with an implementation report on the above review, with specific reference to people with dementia and were the recommendations of the "Action Plan for Dementia" included in the implementation, as stated in the response to Cllr. Eric Byrne's question (March 2002) on the above review?

Reply

Implementation of the above report has commenced. As will be appreciated this report consisted of recommendations for service development across the continuum of care for older people.

The Chairman of the Authority has formally launched the report and its contents have been widely disseminated across the region.

- A regional Steering group, comprising of key representatives is being put in place with a remit to drive the change process resulting from this report.
- The report was particularly concerned with addressing the gaps in community services for older people and the pressures placed upon families and carers. It was considered that the strengthening of these services was paramount to achieving a comprehensive needs based provision. The first recommendations referred to the establishment of a personal care service within each area health board and currently an extensive audit of existing home help services is being carried out with a view to establishing this service. In addition to this a detailed profile of staffing at community level in relation to staff numbers, location, clinical mix of patients and roles and responsibilities is being undertaken. This information is required in order to identify the core community team members for the specialist groups for older people.
- An additional 36 centres providing either new or extended day care facilities will come on line this year. These will also encompass services for people with dementia.
- Home respite services for people with dementia are also due to be expanded this year to provide this facility for 50 families.

The Authority is also funding the introduction of key workers in the community and is in discussion with the National Council on Ageing and Older People and the other health boards re the introduction of case management within the area.

All of the above developments are in line with the recommendations of the Action Plan on Dementia. These recommendations are also being considered as part of the Review of Mental Health Services for Older People.

It is anticipated that through both processes the needs of older people with dementia will be addressed.

3.2 Dr. Siobhan Barry

Re: The Mental Health Strategy for the Eastern Region (ERHA Service Plan 2002, page 115)

Could the CEO inform the Board if service users (not covered in CEO response to my question of March 2002) as well as clinicians were included in

the group established in April 2002 and is this strategic group on course to have a final report available by the end of August 2002?

Reply

I attach a copy of the brief developed to produce a Strategic Plan for the Mental Health Services (copy appended to the official minute). A commitment has been given in the 2002 Service Plan to produce such a strategy.

In reply to the specific reference to membership of the group, it should be noted from the briefing document that we will be constituting the group to include user and clinician views.

In reviewing the work programme for the year it was felt that the earlier indicated date of August 2002 for a final report was too ambitious and that the date of October 2002 for the strategic plan for the psychiatric services is a more realistic date.

3.3 Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

To ask the Chief Executive to present a full report on his efforts to provide funding for the provision of a new health board facility at Millbrook Lawns in Tallaght.

Reply

Following the fire which destroyed the Drug Treatment Unit at the Health Centre in mid June 1999 the range of community services for the West Tallaght catchment area was reviewed with the objective of providing a single pivotal point for the provision of a broader spectrum of both health and social services than previously provided at the Millbrook Lawns site.

The brief for this expanded service involving all users was finalised in April 2001. The estimated final cost currently stands at €4,600,000. Approval in principle was given to the project in mid 2001 and advertisements placed in the EU Journal for the appointment of design team for which responses have now been received.

The Authority are currently awaiting the outcome of the national review of the National Development Plan (NDP) being undertaken by the Department of Health and Children, which will determine the Authority's capital allocation for new approvals in 2002.

In the meantime the Authority have made separate submissions to the Department in February and March 2002 in which the prioritisation of Millbrook Lawns Health Centre has been re-enforced, and more specifically to seek approval to proceed with the selection and appointment of the Design Team. The Authority will continue to seek the necessary funding in order to proceed with the proposed facility.

3.4 Cllr. Charlie O'Connor

To ask the Chief Executive to confirm his plans to provide proper funding for Tallaght Hospital (AMNCH) and to note the concerns being expressed that funding could be cut and services threatened. Will he outline the position and make a statement?

Reply

Provider Plan discussions are at an advanced stage with Tallaght Hospital with a view to finalising an agreement for the current year. Both parties are approaching these negotiations on the basis that the funding available in the current year will support the level of activity commissioned by the Authority from Tallaght Hospital in 2001. Commissioning of additional activity in areas such as oncology is also being addressed in these negotiations. The current level of indicative funding advised to Tallaght Hospital for this year is €138.3 million. This shows an increase of €4.3 million over last year's outturn. In addition, it is expected that Tallaght Hospital will receive further funding in respect of areas such as pay awards and waiting list initiatives during the remainder of the year.

3.5 Cllr. Roisin Shortall

Will the CEO please explain why there are no protocols in place on a regional ERHA level to cater for situations where an elderly person is admitted in an emergency to a hospital outside their health board area and who are subsequently assessed in that hospital as requiring nursing home care to automatically go on the waiting list for a nursing home bed in the health board area where they live, and will he immediately take steps to correct this situation.

Reply

The provision of local and accessible extended care services for Older People is a major issue for Health Boards throughout the country. Prior to the establishment of the Authority, the Nursing Home Section in the EHB administered this service for the region. The provision of extended care services close to where patients where resident posed a challenge for the Board, in view of the demographic profile of the region and the demand for these services. Following the establishment of the Authority, the service was earmarked for devolution, pending the establishment of appropriate structures within the Area Health Boards to support the new functions. This occurred over the first few months of 2001.

In relation to the specific concern around the need for protocols I can confirm that this is a key concern for the Authority. In this context, the current policy in the region in relation to Older People assessed as requiring long-term care in hospitals outside of their Area Health Board catchment area, sees every effort made by the Board of residence to place patients in nursing homes

proximal to their own home or their family home. However, this is not always possible given the geographical location of public and private nursing homes relative to demand for them in particular areas. In reality, all Area Health Boards are contracting beds in private homes across the region contingent on the availability of a suitable bed.

In relation to capacity, there will be an additional 150 nursing home beds operational in the public system by the end of 2002 at sites in Lusk (already admitting), Maynooth and an additional service at Leopardstown Park Hospital. These beds will facilitate improved local access for extended care services. The Authority is also engaged in discussions with the Department of Health and Children in relation to Public-Private Partnerships and the development of further Community Units for Older People.

You will be aware that the Authority has recently completed a Service Review of the Operation and Utilisation of Contract Beds across the region, which was presented to the ERHA Continuing Care Committee on April 8th, 2002. This review highlighted the need to formalise current practice in relation to the operation of the system and recognised that 'regional co-ordination of bed stock and patient transfers between board areas must be further developed and improved'.

The Authority is in discussion with the Boards with a view to improving procedures in this area in the current year.

06/02/56 MATTERS FOR MENTION

Agenda Item No. 4

There were no matters for mention.

**06/02/57 REPORT 14/02 – WITH REFERENCE TO THE PROPOSED
DISPOSAL OF LANDS AT FORMER ST PATRICK'S HOME, NAVAN
ROAD, DUBLIN**

Agenda Item No. 5

The Chief Executive presented Report No. 14/02 – With reference to the proposed disposal of lands at former St Patrick's Home, Navan Road. (*copy appended to the official minute*). *On the proposal of Cllr C Burke, seconded by Cllr J Reilly, the Board resolved unanimously that the land be disposed of to Dublin City Council under the terms and conditions specified in the Section 89 notice as circulated.*

**06/02/58 REPORT 15/02 – DEVELOPMENT OF DAY SURGERY IN THE
NORTHERN AREA**

Agenda Item No. 6

Mr Jim Breslin presented Report No. 15/02 - Development of Day Surgery and Day Medicine in the Northern Area (*copy appended to the official minute*). Following the presentation the Chairman outlined his reservations about the effect the proposals would have on the Incorporated Orthopaedic Hospital of Ireland, Clontarf.

At this stage the Chairman had to leave the meeting due to urgent Dail business and the Vice-Chairman Alderman Senator Joe Doyle took the Chair.

There was a debate to which the following members contributed:-
Dr. M. Molloy, Mr. M. Cowley, Ms. M. Hoban, Mr. L. Tuomey, Cllr. E. Byrne, Dr. K. Harkin, Mr G Brady and Cllr Senator J Doyle.

Members sought assurances that the proposals in the report would be applied across the region at an early date and that there would not be an extensive period of piloting before the recommendations are applied across the region. In addition members sought clarification about treating post-operative complications arising among vulnerable groups such as the elderly.

Mr Jim Breslin advised members that the findings of the report could not be applied in an identical way across the region but that it was intended to apply the recommendations of the report to the other parts of the region as soon as possible. Dr Marie Laffoy clarified that the necessary supports for post-operative care would be put in place under the proposals outlined in the report and the Chief Executive acknowledged that the plan does require additional staff and that this will be addressed in the roll-out.

On a proposal by Mr J Fallon, seconded by Cllr J Dillon Byrne, Report No 15/02 - Development of Day Surgery and Day Medicine in the Northern Area was adopted.

Dr M Molloy requested that a copy of the full report be made available to members and the Chief Executive undertook to circulate the report to all members.

06/02/59 PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF AN AUDIT OF CARDIAC REHABILITATION IN THE EASTERN REGION.

Agenda Item No. 7

Dr. Siobhan Jennings, Specialist in Public Health, presented the Preliminary Findings of an Audit of Cardiac Rehabilitation in the Eastern Region.

There was a discussion to which the following members contributed:- Dr S Barry, Mr M Cowley and Dr J Reilly. Members expressed their appreciation of the interesting report and asked that Board members be updated when the analysis is complete.

On the proposal of Cllr J Reilly, seconded by the Vice- Chairman, the report was noted.

06/02/60 MOTIONS

Agenda Item No. 8

Dr. Kieran Harkin

'That this board requests the CEO to prepare a report outlining the specific issues and challenges concerning the delivery of primary health care in disadvantaged areas of the ERHA, and to make recommendations as to how these can be addressed. The board requests that this report be presented to the board in sufficient time as to enable

any recommendations that might emerge to be incorporated in to the service plan 2003'.

On the proposal of Dr. K. Harkin, seconded by Dr. M. Molloy, the motion was moved for debate. The following members spoke to the motion:- Dr K Harkin, Dr M Molloy, Cllr. Jane Dillon-Byrne, Ald. Sen Joe Doyle, Mr M Cowley and Dr J Reilly.

The Chief Executive undertook to engage with the Area Health Boards on a review of the delivery of primary care in disadvantaged areas and to report back to the Board on completion of the review.

On the proposal of Dr K Harkin, seconded by Dr M Molloy, the motion was agreed.

06/02/61 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.

- Second Human Resource Forum
- Treatment Purchase Fund
- Service Plan Mid Year Review July 2002
- Progress Report – Regional Immunisation Committee
- Recent Publications.

The Chief Executive also advised members that the Taoiseach will launch the DIT ten year plan at the Grangegorman site and that members will be invited to attend. He advised members that there would be a separate launch of the plans for the development of health services on the site and that members would be advised of the details as soon as possible.

The Chief Executive also briefed members on developments in respect of the implementation of the Primary Care Strategy and advised that the matter would be discussed further at the seminar on the National Health Strategy.

Dr S Barry and Cllr J Dillon Byrne asked for updates on the progress of the youth homelessness strategy and the review of services for the elderly. The Chief Executive advised the members that the Mid-Year Review seminar would provide a progress report on all aspects of the Service Plan.

On the proposal of Cllr. J. Reilly seconded by Cllr. L. Butler the Chief Executive's Report as circulated was noted.

06/02/63 **DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**
Agenda Item No. 10

*The date and time for the next meeting was agreed for Thursday 4th July 2002,
following the Annual General Meeting, which will commence at 18:00 in the Board
Room, Dr. Steevens' Hospital.*

The meeting concluded at 20:05hrs.

CORRECT

Donal O Shea
Chief Executive



ALDERMAN IVOR CALLELY
Chairman



DATE

4/4/2002