



EASTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
Minutes of proceedings of Board Meeting
held in the Boardroom, Dr Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8
on Thursday 7th March 2002 at 18:00

Present

Mr Paddy Aspell	Ms. Noeleen Harvey
Dr Siobhan Barry	Cllr. Deirdre Heney
Mr. Gerard Brady	Ms. Maria Hoban
Cllr. Christy Burke	Mr. Paul Ledwidge
Cllr. Laurence Butler	Mr. Gerry McGuire
Cllr. Catherine Byrne	Cllr. Martin Miley
Cllr. Eric Byrne	Ald. Mary Mooney
Dr. Bernard Murphy	Ms. Ann Harris
Cllr. Maria Corrigan	Cllr. Eamonn O'Brien
Mr. Martin Cowley	Cllr. Dr. William O'Connell
Cllr. Tommy Cullen	Dr. Philip O'Connell
Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne	Cllr. Charles O'Connor
Cllr. Pat Doran	Cllr. Michael O'Donovan
Ald. Sen. Joe Doyle	Mrs. Catherine Quinn
Cllr. Andrew Doyle	Cllr. James Reilly
Mr. Joe Fallon	Cllr. Don Tipping
Cllr. Tony Fox	

In the Chair

Alderman I. Callely T.D.
Ald. Sen. Joe Doyle (Vice Chair)

Apologies

Mr John Dolan, Dr. John Fennell, Cllr. Dr. Dermot Fitzpatrick,
Cllr. Colm Mc Grath, Dr James Reilly, Mr Larry Tuomey

In Attendance

Mr Donal O Shea, Mr Pat McLoughlin, Ms Angela Fitzgerald,
Ms Maureen Browne, Dr Marie Laffoy, Ms Alice O'Flynn, Ms Sile Fleming,
Mr Jim Breslin, Ms Mary Van Lieshout, Ms Breda Lawless, Ms Suzanne Kirwan,
Ms Helen Stokes, Ms Joanne FitzPatrick, Ms Deirdre Johnston, Ms Regina Black.

The Chairman read the Opening Prayer

03/02/25

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

Committee Meetings

The Chairman advised the members of the arrangements for the meetings of the Standing Committees as follows:-

- A joint Finance and Property and Protocol Committee meeting and site visit will take place at 14:00 on Monday, 11th March in St Lomans Hospital.
- A meeting of the Protocol Committee meeting will take place at 11:00am on Tuesday, 19th March in the Ashling Hotel.
- A Finance & Property meeting will take place on Monday, 25th March at 2:00pm in the Boardroom, Dr Steevens Hospital.
- The Acute Hospital and Primary Care Committee meeting will take place at 18.30 on Monday 25th March in the Board Room, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8.
- A joint Finance and Property and Protocol Committee will take place at 14:00 on Tuesday, 26th March in the Ashling Hotel, Parkgate Street.

Condolences

The Chairman expressed the sympathy of the members of the Board to Mr. Billy Burke the Gardener at Dr. Steevens' on the recent death of his mother, Mary Lacey RIP.

He also expressed the sympathy of the members of the Board to Mrs Mary Dockery and her family on the recent death of her husband Derek Dockery RIP, who was known to many members of the Authority through his work on the Task Force and more recently with the East Coast Area Health Board.

Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Limited

The Chairman advised members that correspondence was recently received from Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Limited (IPBMI) seeking a nominee to attend and vote at their forthcoming AGM on the 23rd May 2002. At the Protocol Committee Meeting held on 25th February it was recommended that Mr. Gerard Brady would be the nominee from the Authority. This was agreed and notification of this nomination is to be sent to Mr. Brady

03/02/26 Minutes of the proceedings of meeting held on 7th February 2002.
Agenda Item No. 2

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on the 7th February 2002 (*copy appended to the official minute*), having being circulated, were proposed for adoption by Cllr. C. O'Connor, seconded by Mr G. McGuire and agreed.

03/02/27 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. C. Burke seconded by Cllr. L. Butler.

3.1 Cllr Eric Byrne

Will the CEO say what progress is being made on implementing the "Action Plan on Dementia" and will he make a statement on this matter?

Reply

The Minister for Health & Children requested the National Council on Ageing and Older People to consider ways in which services for people with dementia and their carers might be improved. The Council reported on the issue in June 1999. The recommendations contained in the report were considered by the Eastern Regional Health Authority's review team of services for the elderly as part of the overall review of services for the elderly which was approved by the Authority.

The Authority's plans include recommendations to properly structure the response to the needs of the elderly including those with dementia. A Communications Plan and an implementation plan has recently been agreed at management team.

The Authority will place the progress on implementing this plan on the agenda for the Continuing Care & Social Services Committee of the Authority.

3.2 Dr Siobhan Barry

Since the establishment of the ERHA in March 2000, could the CEO comment on:

- How many of the original number of board appointees continue to hold places on the board?
- Whether systems for replacing local authority members who withdraw/retire/resign also apply to those elected by professional bodies?

Reply

When the ERHA was established on 1st March 2000 there were 55 appointed members. Currently there are 54 members remaining on the Board. One member failed to attend meetings continuously for six months and was subsequently

removed from the Board. Notification was sent to the Minister for Health & Children. He notified the member directly to advise of removal from the Authority. To date no further nomination has been received from the Minister.

Of the 54 remaining members there has been an additional change. Cllr. Vance stepped down from the Authority and was replaced by Wicklow County Council by Cllr. Dr. Bill O'Connell.

If a member of a local authority ceases to be a member for any reason, the relevant local authority is requested to nominate a replacement. In the case of all other vacancies, the member is replaced by appointment of the Minister for Health & Children. The Minister does not have to appoint a member from the same category or group as the member being replaced.

3.3 Dr Siobhan Barry

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

- Consultations have yet commenced in relation to producing this strategy?
- A strategic group will be formed which will include service providers and users, in keeping with stated ERHA commissioning principles?
- The time scale envisaged for production of this promised strategy?

Reply

The consultative process for the development of a Plan for the Mental Health Services began with the Adult Mental Health Services in the Eastern Region in 1999/2000.

Each catchment area Management Team produced a 5-Year proposal for their service using a template provided to guide submissions.

In March 2000, with the establishment of the ERHA and the new configuration of these services into 3 Area Health Boards, each Director of Mental Health was provided with the proposals, with a view to them reviewing them within their own geographic area.

Pending the outcome of the Health Strategy 2001, the Authority proceeded to use the information available to advise the Department of Health and Children of our requirements. It also compiled the information provided into one overall document which it will now seek to synchronise with the framework, as set out in the Health Strategy 'Quality and Fairness – A Health System for You'.

A group will be established in April 2002 to review the document and advise on further inputs. The expectation is that a final report should be available by the end of August 2002.

3.4 Dr Siobhan Barry

Re: The appointment of a "person to work closely with the Commission on Mental Health, the Authority and providers in the implementation of the Mental Health Act 2001" (ERHA Service plan 120), could the CEO

- Indicate when this appointment is likely to be made?
- The particular skills required for carrying out this post?
- The wisdom for making this appointment at Authority level over an appointment at Area Health Board level, such as will apply to Health Boards nationally?

Reply:

- (a) The allocation of €30,000 allows the Authority to appoint an individual from July 2002. The Authority intends to put the necessary procedures in place to meet this deadline subject to agreement at national level on the job description etc.
- (b) It is expected that the job description will be agreed nationally following consideration by the National Mental Health Managers Group. Core competencies are likely to include communication, strategic thinking, problem solving skills and ability to accurately represent factual situations.
- (c) The Authority has overall responsibility for planning, commissioning, monitoring and evaluating services for the region. The Authority has sought one post at this point in time from its overall allocation to be identified for the implementation of the Mental Health Act. This situation will be kept under continuing review with the Area Health Boards and if it is considered a priority by the Area Health Boards, this will be considered in the context of the 2003 allocation.

3.5 Cllr. Olivia Mitchell

To ask the Chief Executive if he is aware of the potential which could be explored to the advantage of the ERHA of the provisions of Part 5 of this recent Planning Act whereby an approved Housing Body can receive building land at cost and if it is considered that this provision could be exploited for the provision of residential accommodation across programme areas.

Reply

The Authority is aware of the potential of the provisions of the Planning & Development Act 2000 referred to by the Deputy.

The provisions relate to land zoned solely for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses. The provisions are designed to provide for residential units and not the wider health related projects such as nursing homes or primary care centres.

The main care groups, which could potentially benefit from the above provisions for community residential places are older persons, those who have a physical, sensory and intellectual disability or the homeless.

We are currently exploring such opportunities and exploring the mechanisms under which such schemes could operate and be maintained.

3.6 Cllr. Eamonn O'Brien

"To ask the CEO if he would outline all aspects of payments made by the health board to asylum seekers. To include all discretionary payments, medical, rent allowances, heating, electricity, clothing, (car purchase allowance) and all sundry benefits!

Reply

This is the statutory responsibility of the Area Health Boards and is being dealt with by the Northern Area Health Board on behalf of the three Area Health Boards. We have asked the Northern Area Health Board to supply information and have received the following.

The Health Boards make payments to Asylum Seekers in accordance with the Supplementary Welfare Allowance legislation, policies and guidelines.

Asylum Seekers, on first arriving in Ireland, are provided with full board accommodation in Reception Centres or other longer term facilities, by the Refugee Reception and Integration Agency. Persons in full-board accommodation receive a basic weekly Supplementary Welfare Payment of €19.05 (£15.00), and €9.52 (£7.50) is paid for each child dependent. (The cost of the full-board accommodation is met by the Reception and Integration Agency).

Persons who are deemed unsuitable for "direct provision" (eg on medical grounds), are entitled, under the SWA legislation, to full basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance, and to a supplement towards the cost of private rented accommodation.

Asylum Seekers, and all other resident in the State, are entitled, under legislation, to apply for exceptional needs payments to meet once-off needs. All of these payments are means tested, and the same criteria and rules apply to all applicants, whether they be Asylum Seekers or Irish Citizens.

Contrary to "Urban Myth", no payments are made towards car or mobile phone purchase.

In summary, the legislation policies and guidelines under which supplementary Welfare Allowance is paid applies equally to all who are resident in this state.

Payments under the Supplementary Welfare Allowance Scheme are made using a computer system owned and developed by the Department of Social Community &

Family Affairs. It is not possible, using this system, to identify payments made to Asylum Seekers as distinct from any other group.

3.7 Cllr. Eamonn O'Brien

"To ask the CEO what back-up arrangements have been made by the health board for victims of the recent flooding in Dublin. To state if any further back up facilities are being considered for said victims".

Reply

This is a matter which is a statutory function of the Area Health Boards. In this case the Northern and East Coast Area Health Boards were involved in the recent floods. We have asked the Area Board for information and details and have received the following:

Northern Area Health Board

The Major Emergency Plan was put into operation for the East Wall / North Strand Area following extensive flooding on Friday, 1st February 2002. Our medical, nursing, environmental health and community welfare staff engaged in implementing this emergency plan. A Public Meeting was held and attended by the Supt. Community Welfare Officer, Asst. Director of Public Health Nursing, Principal Environmental Health officer and Principal Clinical Psychologist.

Our Board's Environmental Health Officers and Senior Area Medical Officer advised on Public Health matters and a fact sheet was drawn up on these issues. Advice on reactions to the experience was provided by our Board's Principal Clinical Psychologist with fact sheet including steps to help.

Our Board's Community Welfare Officers and the Ambulance Service worked with other Emergency Services in evacuating and relocating a number of residents. A total of approximately 400 houses were affected by the floods with over 60 houses having to be evacuated.

A total of 74 persons were provided with emergency accommodation and urgent needs payments (i.e. non-means tested) were made totalling €48,500 to 340 Adults and 153 Children. Community Welfare Officers were on duty until 3.00a.m. on Saturday, 2nd February and again all day Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd February. Extended clinics were held week commencing Monday, 4th February 9.00a.m. to 8.00p.m. and again through week commencing 11th February 9.00a.m. to 5.00p.m. Assistance was provided with transport arrangements, collection of essential items from houses and in a number of cases arrangements made for emergency Medical Services.

Up to 1st March 2002, a total of €3,807 was dispersed to 19 persons wishing to return home for white goods i.e. electrical goods, fridges, cookers etc.

Our Boards Public Health Nursing Service operated throughout the weekend with Planned Emergency Service. Vulnerable clients were visited and appropriate

service provided directly or referrals made to General Practitioner or Hospital Service as appropriate. They also provided support particularly to older persons and liased on their behalf with other agencies.

Our Health Centre at East Wall was extensively damaged by the floods. The necessary repairs and replacements are being put in place and the Health Centre will be fully operational from the 8th March 2002.

Our Boards service was facilitated by the Community Centre, St. Mary's Road for the period the Health Centre was not operational.

The full range of our Boards Services will continue to be available in the Area.

Friday, 1st March 2002 was the closing date for receipt of applications under the Special Humanitarian Aid Scheme set up to assist those affected by the floods, administered by the Irish Red Cross.

East Coast Area Health Board

The following East Coast Area Health Board services responded to Victims of recent flooding.

- *Supplementary Welfare Services – Community Care Areas 1 & 2*
- *Elderly Services - Baggot St, Sir Patrick Duns' & Clonskeagh Hospitals*
- *Ambulance Services.*

Supplementary Welfare Assistance was provided from Friday the 1st of February to Friday the 8th of February from Irishtown Health Centre. 1296 individuals were given emergency financial assistance at a cost of approx € 118,350. (further details available on request)

Emergency Accommodation was offered at Baggot St, Sir Patrick Duns' and Clonskeagh Hospitals. Three individuals were accommodated in Baggot Street Hospital. Emergency rented accommodation was provided for two families.

Our Ambulance Service assisted in a number of incidents and remained on emergency standby during the course of this disaster.

In the event of further flooding the above services together with Environmental Health and Community Nursing Services are in place to respond as required.

3.8 Ms. Noeleen Harvey

How many temporary and permanent positions are there for pharmacists and pharmaceutical technicians in each hospital in the region and in each Health Board community service?

Do any of the hospitals provide pharmacy services to any other hospitals or long stay units?

Reply

The attached table outlines a breakdown of pharmacist and pharmaceutical positions within each agency within the ERHA (**Appendix I**)

I am advised by the Adelaide and Meath Hospital including the National Children's Hospital that their pharmacy services are provided to St. Loman's Hospital.

St. James's Hospital provide pharmacy services to the following publicly funded agencies:

- AMNCH – Tallaght Hospital
- Beaumont Hospital
- Cappagh Hospital
- Cherry Orchard Hospital
- East Coast Area Health Board
- Northern Area Health Board
- South Western Area Health Board
- Irish Blood Transfusion Board
- Mid-Western Health Board
- Midland Health Board
- North Eastern Health Board
- North Western Health Board
- Our Lady's Hospice
- Peamount Hospital
- Portlaoise Prison
- Rotunda Hospital
- Royal Victoria Eye & Ear
- South Eastern Health Board
- Southern Health Board
- St. Lukes Hospital
- Western Health Board
- Wheatfield Prison

Within the East Coast Area Health Board, pharmacy services are provided to the Community Unit for the Elderly, Dalkey, by St. Columcilles Hospital, Loughlinstown. Clonskeagh Hospital also provides pharmacy services to the Central Mental Hospital, Dundrum. Baggot St. Hospital provides a service to Drugs/Aids CCA2.

In relation to the South Western Area Health Board, I understand a question was submitted to the Board Meeting held on 5th March and the following is the response

“How many permanent and temporary positions are there for pharmacists and pharmaceutical technicians in:-

(a) *Naas General Hospital*

- (b) *South Western Health Board Drugs/Aids Service*
- (c) *South Western Health Board Community Care*

Does Naas General Hospital provide pharmacy services to any other hospitals or long stay units?"

Reply:

The following is the current situation regarding positions for pharmacists and pharmaceutical technicians in the South Western Area Health Board:-

(a) Naas General Hospital
Pharmacists

- *2 permanent posts (1 Chief II Pharmacist, 1 Senior Pharmacist)*
- *1 temporary post (Senior Pharmacist)*

Pharmaceutical Technicians

- *3 permanent posts (2 Senior Technicians, 1 Basic Grade Technician)*

(b) AIDS/Drugs Service

At present the AIDS/Drugs Service in the South Western Area Health Board dispenses from thirteen locations on a seven-day basis.

The following pharmacy staff are currently employed in this service:-

Pharmacists

- *3 temporary posts (1 full-time Liaison Pharmacist, 2 full-time Senior Pharmacist)*
- *In addition, 26 sessional pharmacists are employed (approximately equivalent to 12 whole-time pharmacists).*

Pharmaceutical Technicians

- *There are no pharmaceutical technicians currently in this service.*

(c) Community Pharmacy Service

There is currently one Community Pharmacist employed in the Eastern Regional Health Authority Area. Although based in the East Coast Area Health Board, the Community Pharmacist provides a regional service to all three Boards.

The South Western Area Health Board has sought funding for the employment of its own Community Pharmacist in the 2002 Provider Plan and indications are that funding will be made available in the near future.

As soon as funding becomes available the post will be advertised immediately.

There are no Pharmacy Technicians employed in Community Services in the South Western Area Health Board.

Naas General Hospital Pharmacy Department provides a pharmacy service to:-

- *St. Vincent's Hospital, Athy*
- *Baltinglass Hospital*
- *Acute Psychiatric Services in Naas Hospital*
- *Clozaril service for community psychiatric patients*

Community Pharmacy Service

There is currently one Community Pharmacist employed in the Eastern Regional Health Authority Area. Although based in the East Coast Area Health Board, the Community Pharmacist provides a regional service to all three Boards. There are plans to engage one for each of the other two boards in the near future.

In relation to the Northern Area Health Board, I have been advised that a response to a question will be supplied at their meeting scheduled for 21st March 2002.

03/02/28 Matters for Mention

Agenda Item No 4

Cllr Charlie O'Connor raised the fact that the Health Centre at Millbrook Lawns, Tallaght had been damaged by fire and required urgent renovation and rebuilding.

A discussion took place to which the following members contributed:

Cllr. Don Tipping, Cllr. Eric Byrne, Mr. Gerry McGuire, Dr. Philip O'Connell, Cllr. Jim Reilly, and the Chairman.

Mr McLoughlin undertook to write to Cllr. O'Connor with details on the issue and it was agreed that a report on Capital monies and the NDP would be given to a meeting of the Board's Finance and Property Committee in early April.

03/02/29 Review of Services for Persons with Autistic Spectrum Disorder in the Eastern Region – Report No. 06/02

Agenda Item No. 5

Ms Mary Van Lieshout, Service Planner presented Report 06/02 – Review of Services for Persons with Autistic Spectrum Disorder in the Eastern Region (*copy appended to the official minute*).

There followed a lengthy discussion to which the following members contributed:- Dr S Barry, Dr Philip O'Connell, Mr Paul Ledwidge, Mr Joe Fallon, Ms Jane Dillon Byrne and the Vice Chair.

The members raised matters relating to education and the involvement of the Department of Education and Science and local autism specific services in service planning and monitoring. Members requested that a regular progress report on the implementation of the plan be submitted to one of the Standing Committees of the Board in this regard and the Chief Executive undertook to do so.

On the proposal of Cllr Sen Joe Doyle, seconded by Mr Paul Ledwidge, Report 06/02 - Review of Services for Persons with Autistic Spectrum Disorder in the Eastern Region was noted by members.

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

03/02/30 Homeless Strategy Report – Report No. 07/02
Agenda Item No. 6

Ms. Alice O Flynn, Director of Homelessness, presented Report 07/02 – Homeless Strategy Report.

Following the presentation a discussion took place to which the following members contributed:- Dr S. Barry, Cllr C. Burke, Cllr M. O'Donovan, Cllr E. Byrne and the Vice Chairman.

The members expressed concerns relating to youth homelessness and sought details of proposals to address these issues. Mr Pat McLoughlin, Director of Planning and Commissioning and Ms Alice O Flynn, Director of Homelessness responded and clarified the position for members.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Cllr C. Burke, the report (*copy appended to the official minute*) was agreed.

03/02/31 Regional Child Care Framework – Report No. 08/02
Agenda Item No. 7

Ms. Madeleine Clarke, presented Report 08/02 – Progress Report on Strategic Framework on Children and Families (*copy appended to the official minute*).

Following the presentation a discussion took place to which the following members contributed:- Dr S. Barry, Cllr C. Quinn, Cllr C. Burke, Cllr A. Doyle and the Vice Chairman.

The members raised issues such as the identification of problems at an early stage and the role of the Public Health Nurse, care planning, and alcohol and drug addiction. Ms Clarke responded to the issues raised and undertook to provide a further progress report in due

course.

At this stage in the meeting the Vice-Chair was asked if a quorum was present at the meeting. In the absence of a quorum, the Vice-Chairman declared the meeting ended at 20:20.

CORRECT
Donal O Shea
Chief Executive


ALDERMAN IVOR CALLELY TD
Chairman

4/4/2002
DATE

ALD. SEN. JOE DOYLE
Vice Chairman

DATE