

MINUTES:

GENERAL INSTITUTIONAL CARE STANDING COMMITTEE.

Minutes of meeting held on 9th February, 1973, at St. Joseph's District Hospital, Ballina.

Present Were: Mr. P. Bresnihan, F.R.C.S.I., Chairman.
Mr. P. Concannon, M.C.C.
Mr. E. Haverty, M.C.C.
Mr. T. King, M.C.C.
Mr. D. O'Rourke, M.C.C.

In attendance: Mr. E. Hannan, Chief Executive Officer.
Mr. T. Keyes, Programme Manager.
Mr. M. O'Brien, Secretary.
Dr. T. Staunton, Medical Officer, Ballina Hospital.
Sr. Alphonsus, Head Nurse, Ballina Hospital.

Apologies for inability to attend were received from Miss D. Casey.

2.1. Minutes:

The minutes of the inaugural meeting held at St. Teresa's Psychiatric Unit on 12th January, 1973, were read. Arising from the Minutes, Mr. T. King pointed out that item 1.6. should read "mainly" instead of "alone". The meeting agreed and the minutes were amended accordingly and signed.

2.2. Procedure:

The meeting agreed that the Chairman should propose any matters agreed by the Committee as to the Health Board Meeting and in his absence any other member could be the proposer. The meeting agreed that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee should be circulated to each member of the Health Board before the Health Board Meeting and that any member could raise a question on the Minutes at the Board Meeting under the item on the Agenda "Committee Reports".

2.3. County Hospital, Castlebar, Development Plan and related matters:

The meeting examined the proposed Development Plan for the County Hospital, Castlebar, which was previously circulated. Mr. T. King stated that similar plans should be prepared for each hospital within the programme. The Chief Executive

Officer stated that the Health Board Officials were in the process of preparing an overall plan for Roscommon and Portluncla Hospitals and he hoped that this would be available for the April Meeting. He also stated that it was intended that each Committee should be able to submit full proposals for their respective programmes in due course.

The Chief Executive Officer elaborated on each point in the Development Plan for the County Hospital, Castlebar. He considered that each item listed in Stage 1 of the Plan was urgently required. The meeting agreed that Stage 1 should be completed by 31st March 1976, and that Stage 2 should then be undertaken and completed by 31st March, 1978.

Mr. Bresnihan pointed out that there had been no major Capital Works carried out at the County Hospital, Castlebar, since the Maternity Unit was completed in 1967, and that no account had been taken of the need to develop ancillary services with the growth of the Hospital.

Mr. P. Concannon enquired regarding the effect of whatever Budget cuts were made by the Department of Health on the proposed developments. The Chief Executive Officer stated that whatever cut was made would be distributed between the Programmes in the best way possible. Mr. O'Rourke requested that details of the increase caused by wage and salary increases in the Budget for 1973/74 be made available. The Chief Executive Officer pointed out that some salary increases had not been allowed for in the Budget and that this had the effect that the Budget submitted to the Department was not a realistic one having regard to the various salary increases granted.

On the proposition of Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Mr. Haverty, the Development Plan for the County Hospital was approved and recommended to the Health Board for acceptance.

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2.4. Calvary Hospital:

The Chief Executive Officer outlined to the Meeting, the discussions which had taken place in relation to the future of Calvary Hospital, Galway. He stated that he could not agree to their request to allow Consultants employed by the Western Health Board to attend at the Hospital. Consequent on the closure of the Calvary Maternity Unit it was anticipated that there would be an increased demand on maternity beds in the Galway Regional Hospital and it has now been arranged to provide 15 extra beds to cope with this. These beds would be available before 31.3.1973. There was a case for increasing the capitation rate payable to Calvary. This had been fixed in April 1972, and costs had increased since then. It was agreed to recommend to the Health Board that it support the application of Calvary Hospital to the Minister for Health for an increase in the capitation rate.

2.5. Dr. Staunton:

The Chief Executive Officer stated that he wished to record his appreciation to Dr. Staunton for the wonderful service he had given to the Mayo people and particularly to the people in the Ballina area. While he regretted that he was leaving Ballina Hospital, he was glad that he was moving to Castlebar County Hospital. He also paid a tribute to St. Alphonsus, Head Nurse and her staff for their work in Ballina Hospital.

Mr. Bresnihan on his behalf and on behalf of the Committee asked to be associated with the tributes to Dr. Staunton. He stated that he had always got the greatest co operation from Dr. Staunton and the Ballina Hospital Staff and was glad that Dr. Staunton was not leaving the area in his move to Castlebar Hospital.

Sr. Alphonsus joined in the tributes to Dr. Staunton and stated that she had worked with him for twelve years and had never met a more dedicated doctor. While she regretted his leaving she wished him every success in Castlebar.

Dr. Staunton expressed thanks for the tributes paid to him. He stated that he regretted leaving Ballina Hospital and that he had never worked with a more dedicated staff than in the Hospital. He then outlined some facts relating to the Hospital and its work.

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Minutes of Meeting of Community Care Standing Committee held at 8 p.m. on Monday, 20th February, 1973, at Wexford Park Regional Hospital.

The Chief Executive Officer in conclusion stated that it was an indication of his standing in that Dr. Staunton had been nominated to the Committee examining the structure of the General Practitioner's Service and that Dr. Staunton had given a Consultant Service to Ballina Hospital.

In attendance: Mr. P. McEid, Chairman, Community Care.

2.6. Next Meetings:

The Committee decided to hold their next meeting in the County Hospital, Roscommon, on Thursday, 22nd March, 1973, at 2.30 p.m.

The Meeting concluded at 6.00 p.m.

Signed: P BRESNIHAN
CHAIRMAN.
22/3/73

The Chairman raised this matter. It was clarified that the intention was that, subject to a complete equal division of patients, the two hospitals should be divided for the purpose of business to be done. It was also noted that it would be possible to have some flexibility in the number of patients transferred to either hospital in order to meet the needs of the community care programme.

This was discussed for some time and it was agreed that the Committee should be kept informed of any developments in the Community Care Programme.