

BORD SLAINTE AN IARTHAIR

PSYCHIATRIC & GERIATRIC CARE --- STANDING COMMITTEE

Report of a Meeting of the Committee held in St. Patrick's Hospital, Castlereagh, on Monday, March 12, 1973, at 12.00

PRESENT: Councillor P. Joyce, Chairman, who presided

Senator D. Lyons  
Mrs. M. Croffy, M.C.C.  
Mr. M.J. Egan, LL.B.  
Dr. L. Hanniffy  
Mr. J. Lenehan, M.C.C.  
Mr. T. O Baoill, R.M.N.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mr. King and Dr. Dyar.

IN ATTENDANCE Dr. J.V. Halpenny, R.M.S., St. Patrick's Hospital  
Mr. D. O Shea, Programme Manager  
Miss B. Gibbons, Secretary.

MINUTES Minutes of meeting held on February 23rd, 1973, copies of which had been circulated prior to the meeting were adopted.

REPORT ON VISIT TO ST. BRIGID'S A report on the visit to St. Brigid's Hospital on February 23rd, which had been circulated, was discussed. It was agreed that spending of any further capital money should be done within the framework of an overall long-term report which was being prepared for the Hospital. The Programme Manager explained that this would not interfere with the revenue expenditure and that the increased allowance for maintenance in the 1973/74 Budget, if approved, should allow the improvement of such areas in the older buildings to which members of the Committee had drawn particular attention. Reference was made to the overcrowding in some of the wards. Senator Lyons said that more had been done in the past 10 years than in 100 years previously; that there was no method of instant renewal; that the capital needed now would not be available for twenty years and that we must do the best we can with what we have and it will be a long slow haul.

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PROGRESS  
REPORT

Welfare Homes -- Building Sites. Verbal agreement had been received from the Department for the purchase of the sites at Carraroe and Newcastle.

St. Mary's Hospital, Castlebar -- Boilers. Approval had been given to the recommended tender and the boilers were now on order.

St. Mary's Hospital, Castlebar -- Water Storage. At present detailed drawings of a new design for the Tower are being prepared.

APPROVAL OF  
TENDERS

Mr. Egan suggested that the delay which sometimes occurs in Contractors securing insurance cover should be discussed with some insurance bodies with a view to getting this procedure expedited.

QUORUM

It was agreed that it should be incorporated into the Minutes that four (4) Members of the Committee would constitute a quorum.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in St. Mary's Hospital, Castlebar, on April 9, at 12.00 Noon.

There being no further business the meeting then concluded.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Gerard J. Luby*  
Secretary

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Patrick D. Joyce*  
Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*9/4/73*

Visit of Standing Committee for Psychiatric & Geriatric Care to St. Patrick's Hospital, Castlerea, on Monday, 12th March 1973.

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The Committee went on a detailed tour of the Hospital and visited every ward, dining room and day room. Also visited were: kitchen; industrial therapy areas; Chapel; and Nurses' Home. The tour included the Children's Unit.

Committee Members were able to observe the progress that has been made towards the creation of separate units within the Hospital for: admission patients; continued treatment; hostel/rehabilitation; geriatric patients who are ambulant; infirmary; psycho-geriatric patients and mentally handicapped adults. The segregation of patients into these categories will allow the correct staffing ratios and the most suitable facilities to be provided for each type of patient. Each separate unit will be integrated. It was observed that the major problem in the implementation of this plan was the lack of lifts and stairways at the extremities of the Block. The lack of these facilities also constituted a fire hazard in that the existing stairways were in the middle of the hospital and the fire escape was half-way along each block. The Budget for 1973/74 makes provision for these facilities.

A full discussion took place after the visit and on the invitation of the Chairman, Dr. Halpenny outlined what his major problems were:

1. He would like to get adequate domestic staff in all the wards to relieve nurses of non-nursing duties so that their efforts can be directed towards the treatment of patients. This will also allow for better services outside the Hospital.
2. Provision of stairways and lifts was essential for the proper development of the programme for the segregation of the various types of patient.
3. Some long-term plan was necessary to deal with replacement of prefabricated buildings which had been built in the 1940's.

The Programme Manager said that the 1973/74 Budget allows for the employment of eight (8) additional domestic staff and it was hoped to increase these numbers in the years to come. No long-term plan had been drawn up for the replacement of the prefabricated buildings.

CENTRAL HEALTH BOARD

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, expressed thanks to Dr. Halpenny and the staff of the Hospital for their courtesy and hospitality.

12th Mar. 1973.

Signed:

  
B. Gibbons, Secretary

I hereby inform you that a Special Meeting of the Board  
will be held at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 27th Mar. 1973, in the  
Board Room, St. Patrick's Hospital, Castlereagh, to discuss  
the above subject. You are hereby requested to attend.

Yours sincerely,

  
L. H. H. H.  
Chief Executive Officer

SECRET

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