EASTERN HEALTH BOARD
Minutes of Proceedings of Monthly Meeting of the Eastern Health Board held in the Boardroom, St. Brendan's Hospital, Grangegorman, on Thursday 6th October, 1977, at 6 p.m.

Present:

Councillor Mrs. J. Barlow
Dr. J. D. Behan
Councillor Michael Brady
Councillor D. Browne
Councillor M. Carroll
Councillor J. Connolly
Mr. Hugh Corrigan
Councillor Oliver Cooney
Councillor H. P. Dockrell
Professor J. S. Doyle
Councillor J. Duming
Alderman A. FitzGerald
Councillor Mrs. A. Glenn
Councillor Austin Groome

Councillor T. Hand
Mr. Kevin Harrington
Councillor P. Hickey
Dr. D. G. Kelly
Councillor Denis Kinsella
Dr. P. McCarthy
Sr. Columba
Dr. A. Meade
Mr. B. Mulledy
Deputy Ciaran Murphy
Mr. F. O'Mahony
Councillor J. Sweeney
Dr. J. Walker.

Apologies for Absence from:
Ms. Noreen Kearney, Deputy Mrs. E. Lemass, Deputy T. Leonard, Prof. J. McCormick, and Dr. Marie Walsh.

In the Chair:
Councillor Patrick Hickey, P.C.

Officers in Attendance:

Mr. E. O Caoimh Chief Executive Officer Mr. K. Quinn
Mr. J. J. Nolan Deputy Chief Executive Officer Mr. J. Doyle
Mr. F. Donohue Programme Manager Mr. A. O'Brien
Mr. T. Keyes Programme Manager Mr. M. Cummins
Prof. B. O'Donnell Dublin Medical Officer Miss K. Dolan
Mr. J. F. Reynolds Finance Officer Miss E. Larkin
Mr. R. N. Lamb Personnel Officer Mr. T. Harty
Mr. F. Elliott Planning & Eval. Officer Mr. B. Garvey
Mr. J. Sadlier Technical Services Officer Mr. H. Dunne
Prof. Ivor Browne Chief Psychiatrist
Mr. J. Clarke General Administrator
Mr. P. J. Swords General Administrator
Mr. F. J. McCullough General Administrator
CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of monthly meeting held on the 6th September, 1977 having been circulated were confirmed on a proposal by Councillor Carroll seconded by Councillor Sweeney.

(a) Matters arising:

Arising from the Minutes, the Chairman drew the members' attention to a letter dated October 4th 1977 which he had received from Mr. J. J. Nolan, Deputy Chief Executive Officer on the subject of St. James's Hospital Board. A copy of the letter, as follows, had been sent to each member.

"Dear Chairman,

At the monthly meeting of the St. James's Hospital Board held on Friday last, September 30th, with Professor Howie in the Chair, Federation representatives made a very strong plea for an early meeting between twelve selected members of their four hospitals involved in the development of St. James's and the ten Eastern Health Board nominees on the Hospital Board. The four hospitals involved are Sir Patrick Dun's, Baggot Street, Mercers and Dr. Steevens and the purpose of the meeting was to consider a proposal from them for a reconstitution of the St. James's Board which as set out below would have reduced the Eastern Health Board representation to six:—

Proposed St. James's Group Board

Eastern Health Board—6 members (at present 10 members).

Federation—6 members (at present 10 members).

Consultant Medical Staff—6 members of the staff working on the site.

Trinity College, Dublin—2.

In addition it was proposed that there would be two divisions on the site—an acute division and a long-stay division each responsible for approximately 600 beds. There would be a separate Management Board of 10 members (6 lay and 4 medical) for each division.

An earlier request for such a meeting to be held on September 27th, had been made in a letter dated 14th idem from the Federation but the meeting had not been held because of doubts as to an adequate attendance."
At that time I sent a note to each of the Eastern Health Board nominees concerned, with a copy to yourself, indicating the general policy of our Board in that regard as shown hereunder:—

1. Eastern Health Board policy as stated is for a 50% representation, as at present on any reconstituted St. James’s Hospital Board. The composition of the Eastern Health Board representation may be adjusted if the Board think fit, by including nominees from outside the Board.

2. Eastern Health Board policy does not include the creation of two divisions on the site. There will be one hospital on the site catering for all the patients involved and one Board of management. Subdivisions of the Board of Management of St. James’s Hospital would be suggested by the Eastern Health Board if considered desirable.

3. The Eastern Health Board do not consider that Dr. Steevens Hospital—as long as it continues to operate as a separate entity with a separate Board of Management—should have nominated representation on the St. James’s Board.

4. The Eastern Health Board consider that one nominated T.C.O. representative would be enough—it is probable that there will be members of Trinity College Dublin among the other Federated members of the Board.

5. The Eastern Health Board appreciate the value of suitable medical and other professional representation on the St. James's Board and have indicated a willingness to support such representation.

I consider that in all the circumstances this matter should be brought to the attention of the Eastern Health Board at next Thursday’s Meeting for a general definition of the Board’s views in this regard. With that in mind I am sending a copy of this note to each member of the Board.

Yours sincerely, J. J. NOLAN,

D/Chief Executive Officer."
The position in relation to the Board's involvement and interest in the management and policy of St. James's Hospital was considered in detail and it was unanimously agreed on a proposal by Councillor H. P. Dockrell, seconded by Dr. P. McCarthy, to confirm the Board's general policy in that regard as set out in Mr. Nolan's letter. It was also agreed that the Eastern Health Board representatives on the St. James's Hospital Board should be authorised to meet members of the Federated Voluntary Hospitals group, if necessary to make known the policy of the Eastern Health Board.

116/77

PROCEEDINGS OF VISITING COMMITTEES

The reports of the following visiting committees, having been circulated, were dealt with as follows:—

(a) No. 1 Visiting Committee meeting held at District Hospital, Wicklow on 22/9/1977—Noted.

(b) No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at Bru Chaoimhin on 24/8/1977—

In complimenting the staff concerned Councillor D. Browne expressed the hope that lack of funds would not delay the improvements proposed at this home. Mr. Corrigan also contributed and Mr. Swords replied to the points raised.

(c) No. 2 Visiting Committee meeting held at the Old Coombe Day Centre on 24/8/1977—Noted.

(d) Joint meetings of Nos. 2 and 3 Visiting Committees held at:

St. Ita's Hospital on 7/9/1977 and
St. Brendan's Hospital on 15/9/1977.

Mr. Keyes explained to the members that a major report on the future development of the Psychiatric Services was currently being examined by the management team and the heads of the various disciplines engaged in this work and suggested that the members should await this report. The members concurred with this suggestion but felt that an ad hoc committee should be set up as suggested by the visiting committees. Alderman FitzGerald, Mr. Corrigan, Dr. Behan, Councillor Carroll, Dr. Powell, Mr. O'Mahony, Councillor Mrs. Glenn, Dr. Meade, Dr. Sheehan, Dr. McCarthy, Dr. Walker
and Dr. Kelly contributed to the debate. Professor Ivor Browne also elaborated on the proposed developments and the problems which they would have to face.

The following resolution proposed by Alderman FitzGerald and seconded by Councillor Browne was unanimously adopted:

"That a special ad hoc committee be set up to consider the report of the Programme Manager and Chief Psychiatrist now nearing completion and report back to the Board."

It was agreed that the committee would consist of ten persons.

At this juncture Dr. Walker referred to the Community Care Visiting Committees which had been deferred from the last meeting and sought to have this matter dealt with. The Chairman agreed to take item No. 6 and standing orders were suspended on a proposal by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Councillor Browne.

Dr. Walker stated that he envisaged a committee of 8-10 persons who would hold office for 1 year and be replaced by another group of members. He felt that the committee should inspect and report on the premises they visited, more or less on the same hues as hospital visiting committees operated. He also felt that the committee should recognise local professional groups operating in the particular area. The members then proceeded to elect the following ten members:

Councillor D. Browne, Dr. B. Sheehan, Councillor Mrs. Glenn, Councillor Mrs. Barlow, Councillor M. Carroll, Councillor A. Groome, Dr. P. McCarthy, Mr. B. Mulledy, Councillor J. Connolly, Deputy Mrs. E. Lemass.

Dr. Walker thanked the Chairman and members for their courtesy and the meeting then proceeded to elect the ad hoc committee for the Special Hospital Care Programme. The following members were elected:

Mr. F. O'Mahony, Dr. Behan, Alderman FitzGerald, Mr. H. Corrigan, Sr. Columba, Councillor T. Hand, Mr. B. Mulledy, Councillor A. Groome, Deputy C. Murphy, Councillor Mrs. Barlow.

The Chairman also directed the members attention to a letter of 5/10/77 from Dr. McGuinness, R.M.S. St. Ita's Hospital, setting out his views on part of the joint visiting committees' reports. It was agreed unanimously to note
the letter and refer it to the ad hoc committee which had been set up as above.

(e) No. 3 Visiting Committee meeting held at Cherry Orchard Hospital on 31/8/77—

The members were pleased to note letter dated 26/9/77 from the Department of Health regarding provision of patient bed isolators at Cherry Orchard Hospital to deal with cases of Lassa Fever, Viral and Haemorrhagic Diseases and other exotic diseases of tropical origin. Dr. Kelly suggested that the generals hospital should get involved in the treatment of infectious diseases, especially childrens hospitals. Mr. Nolan informed him that from previous enquiries made it was clear that these hospitals did not wish to become involved with infectious diseases but he would ask them again for their views. He also stressed that in view of the emergence of new infectious disease hazards and possibilities the Board would need to be careful not to allow any undue curtailment of the accommodation, facilities and staff available for treatment of such diseases. The report and correspondence was noted.

(f) No. 4 Visiting Committee meeting held at St. Loman's Hospital on 21/9/1977—Noted.

117/77

PROCEEDINGS OF LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEES

The Minutes of the Meetings of the following Local Health Committees having been circulated were dealt with as follows:—

(a) Dublin City Local Health Committee meeting held on 21/9/77—Noted.
(b) Dun Laoghaire Local Health Committee meeting held on 20/9/77—Noted.

118/77

ANNUAL REPORT OF GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES (PAYMENTS) BOARD 1976

The Chief Executive Officer explained to the members that he had sent them this report in advance of a detailed analysis of the report which was being prepared for consideration by
them at the November meeting. Dr. Sheehan referred to the Pie Chart of total expenditure by the G.M.S. (Payments) Board which illustrated that administration was only 1.5% of the total expenditure and asked that more information be made available on this point.

119/77

CAPITAL SCHEMES PROGRESS REPORT

The following Report No. 33/1977 from the Chief Executive Officer was submitted:—

"At its meeting on 3rd March, 1977, the Board approved of the Capital programme of new works for 1977 as agreed with the Department of Health. The programme was in two parts the Minister having made available a special allocation for minor schemes which would ensure the maximum of employment and which could be completed during the year. Progress with the programme is reported as follows:—

Major Capital projects'


2. Legion of Mary Hostels: 
   Fire escapes, emergency To commence first week in
   lighting, etc. 
   October.

3. Bru Chaoimhín: Fire 
   To commence first week in 
   alarm system. 
   emergency lighting, etc. 
   October.

4. St Ita's Hospital: Fire 
   Arrangements for commence- 
   alarm system, 
   ment in hand. 
   emergency lighting, 
   telephone system, etc.

5. (a) Health Centre— 
    Arrangements for commence- 
    Millbrook 
    ment in hand.

   (b) Health Centre—Coolock — Tenders received on 16/9/1977 
      and under examination, .......... 

   (c) Health Centre— — Tender documents in preparation. 
      Ballinteer 
      Tenders to be invited next week.
6. (a) Blanchardstown Health Centre
(b) Finglas Health Centre
— Tender documents in preparation, it is anticipated that tenders can be invited in October.

7. Warrenstown House:
   Residential Centre for emotionally disturbed children.

8. St. Ita's Hospital:
   Improvements to nurses home and provision of additional mental handicap hostel accommodation.

9. Ambulance Control Centre and equipment.
— Tenders with Department of Health for examination.

10. Turf handling equipment for heating plant, St. Brendan's Hospital.
— Planning in progress.

11. Special unit for young persons, Central Mental Hospital.
— Project Team completing brief for Architect.

Minor capital projects:

— Requirements being finalised by Architect.

2. Structural works, re-wiring etc., St. Clare's Home.
— Tenders accepted. Work to commence early October.

3. Re-wiring at St. Colmcille's Hospital.
— Commenced 18th July. Satisfactory progress.

4. Renewal of heating system Old Co. Road premises.
— Commenced 30th June. Satisfactory progress.

5. Fire alarm and fire escape Mt Pleasant Sq. Hostel.
— Contract documents being finalised with Fire Officer.

6. Psychogeriatric admission unit, St. Brendan's Hospital.
— Commenced 7th July. Building works well in hand. Electrical work commenced.
7. Structural works and
decoration Welfare Building,
1 James's Street.

Building works completed.
Building re-occupied. Heating
installation being completed.

8. Office accommodation for
Community Care team at
BalKfermot Health Centre.

Architect finalising planning.

9. Office accommodation for
Community Care team at
Annexe Building. St.
Brendan's.

Internal clearance works
completed. Architect finalising
specification for renovations.


Architect finalising arrangements
to enable invitations of tenders.

11. Office accommodation,
Wicklow town.

Planning in progress.

Colman's, Rathdrum.

Tender accepted. Work to
commence first week in
October.

13. Renovations to Unit 2.
Bru Chaoimhm.

Work in progress. First stage
due for hand-over.

14. Staff dining facilities.
Cherry Orchard Hospital.

Tenders being invited.

15. New disinfecting Unit,
Cherry Orchard Hospital.

Tenders received 22nd
September and under
examination.

16. Improved storage and
ancillaries, St Colmcille's
Hospital.

Tenders accepted. Work
commenced 16th September.

17. Renewal of electrical
wiring. Old Co. Road
premises.

Satisfactory progress.

18. Engineering stores—
St Brendan's Hospital.

Satisfactory progress.

19. Painting, St Ita's Hospital.

Section completed.

20. Re-roofing—Cornmarket
building.

— Completed.
21. New roadways, etc. — Work practically complete.
   St. Colman’s, Rathdrum.

22. Purchase of dental equipment — Equipment on order,

Projects 1-11 above are included in the list of twelve minor schemes for which an allocation of £270,000 to be expended in 1977 (subsequently increased to £300,000) was approved by the Minister. Further investigation of the remaining item on that list—rewiring and minor structural work at St. Brigid’s Home—has been found necessary. However, following further consultation with the Department of Health with a view to achievement of the objectives of the minor capital scheme, it has been possible to undertake the additional minor works listed 12-22 all of which will be completed early in 1978. The overall cost of the minor capital schemes listed is estimated at £550,000 approximately.

A further progress report will be made in December."

On a proposal by Councillor Kinsella, seconded by Councillor Sweeny the members unanimously agreed to note the report.

120/77

COMMUNITY CARE VISITING COMMITTEE This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

121/77

MEATH HOSPITAL BOARD—ELECTION OF MEMBER

The Chairman informed the meeting that due to the death of Councillor Miss M. Ennis a vacancy had occurred on the Meath Hospital Board. The members agreed to fill the vacancy at the meeting. Mr. H. Corrigan was proposed by Councillor Carroll and seconded by Councillor Sweeney. Dr. J. Hurley was proposed by Alderman FitzGerald and seconded by Dr. Kelly.

On a vote Mr. Corrigan was declared elected by 18 votes to 5 the voting being as follows:—

FOR Mr. CORRIGAN:

Dr. Behan, Councillor Carroll, Councillor Connolly, Mr. Corrigan, Councillor Cooney, Mr. Harrington, Councillor
FOR Dr. HURLEY:

Alderman FitzGerald, Professor Doyle, Councillor Groome, Councillor Hand, Dr. Kelly. (5).

At the conclusion of the voting Dr. Sheehan suggested to the members that some method should be devised whereby local general practitioners should be represented on these outside boards. The members agreed to consider this at the next available opportunity.

NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) As Councillor Mrs. Barlow had to leave the meeting before the time the motion in her name was taken, the Chairman agreed to have it put on the agenda for the next meeting of the Board.

(b) The following motion in the name of Mr. Harrington was seconded by Dr. Powell:

"Proposed that when a cessor in membership occurs on the Eastern Health Board, whether because of elections, disqualification or resignation of a member, all memberships on outside boards or committees to which the ex-member was appointed by the Board shall cease and that the Board take steps, not later than the monthly meeting following the cessor of membership, to fill the vacancy, on those outside boards or committees.

The Board, if it so desires, may re-elect the person who previously represented the Board on an outside body and where the person represented the Board on more than one body, it may re-appoint the ex-member to all or any of those outside bodies or committees. The person selected or re-elected shall hold membership of those outside boards or committees until the next election of members to those bodies."

After a short discussion the motion was adopted unanimously.

(c) The following motion in the name of Councillor A. Groome was seconded by Councillor Cooney:

"That this Board give urgent consideration to the appointment of three additional health inspectors for County Kildare."
It was agreed unanimously that it should be referred to the management team for consideration.

123/77 CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Letter dated 16th September, 1977 from Dublin County Council conveying the following resolution which had been adopted by them was read and noted:

'That the Minister for Health be asked to appoint a qualified dentist to advise him in view of the fact that applications for Dental Benefit are being assessed by unqualified persons and that the post of Dental Advisor has been vacant for the last four years."

(b) Letter dated 28th September, 1977 from Commissioner. Garda Síochána on a reported case of paraquat being in a car stolen in the Dublin City area was read and noted.

(c) Letter dated 23rd September from the North Western Health Board conveying the following resolution adopted by that board at its most recent meeting was read:

'That the North Western Health Board recommend to the Minister that it should be party to any future agreements and/or revision of agreements within the General Medical Services Scheme."

The motion, the members agreed, was worthy of support.

(d) Letter dated 15th September, 1977 from the Secretary, Department of Health, acknowledging the Board's request to have Sr. Columba included as a member of the Pre-Commissioning Committee for the Beaumont Hospital was read and noted.

The meeting terminated at 7.55 p.m.

CORRECT:

E. O. CAOIMH.
Chief Executive Officer.

Signed..........................................

Chairman.