

**Minutes of Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster meeting held
on Tuesday 17th April 2012, at the boardroom, HSE Dublin – Mid Leinster
Offices, Block 4, Central Business Park, Tullamore, Co. Offaly**

Present:

Cllr. D. O’Callaghan (Chairperson)	Cllr. W. Aird
Cllr. P Belton	Cllr. V. Blake
Cllr. G. Brady	Cllr. B. Brennan
Cllr. T. Cullen	Cllr. M. Devine
Cllr. M. Dollard	Cllr. P. Doran
Cllr. M. Duff	Cllr. T. Fox
Cllr. M. Freehill	Cllr. P. Hand
Cllr. G. Horkan	Cllr. I. Keatley
Cllr. C. King	Cllr. S. Langan
Cllr. B. Lawlor	Cllr. T. McKeigue
Cllr. D. Mitchell	Cllr. G. O’Connell
Cllr. P. J. Reilly	

Apologies:

Cllr. M. Bailey
Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne
Cllr. C. NiDhailaigh
Cllr. V. Jackson
Cllr. K. O’Brien
Cllr. P. Burke

In attendance:

Mr. John Cregan, Director, RHO, Dublin – Mid Leinster.
Mr. Gerry O’Neill, Integrated Services Area Manager.
Ms. Dymphna Bracken, Communications Manager, Dublin – Mid Leinster

12:02:01 Adoption of minutes of meeting of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin -Mid Leinster held on Tuesday 21st February 2012.

On the proposal of Cllr. P.J. Reilly, seconded by Cllr. B. Brennan, the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday, 21st February 2012 were adopted.

12:02:02 Chairperson’s Correspondence.

Cllr. D. O’Callaghan, Chairperson advised members that a meeting between the four Forum Chairpersons and the minister for Health has been rescheduled and will now take place on 30th April 2012.

Cllr. D. O’Callaghan, Chairperson stated that he had accepted a letter from Mr. Paddy Byrne, St. Brigid’s Crooksling Action Group prior to the Forum meeting. The letter was referred to Mr. Gerry O’Neill for response.

12:02:03 Noting of report of Joint Committee Chairperson for the Acute Hospital Services and Population Health and Primary Community and Continuing Care Committees.

Members noted the above report.

12:02:04 HSE Update: Emergency Medicine Programme

Dr. Una Geary, Consultant in Emergency Medicine made a presentation on Emergency Medicine Programme. Following the presentation members raised the following issues:

- Comparison between Irish and International Standards

Dr. Geary stated that while it is difficult to compare systems, a very high standard of medical and nursing care is provided in Ireland.

- Communications between patients and Emergency Dept. staff

Dr. Geary stated the Emergency Medicine Programme is aware that improvements in communications between patients and staff need to be made and work on this issue is currently in progress.

- Inappropriate attendances at Emergency Departments.

Dr. Geary stated that, under the Emergency Medicine Programme, it is planned that GPs will have options to refer patients directly to appropriate services within the hospital rather than Emergency Department e.g. medical patients will be referred directly to medical ward.

- Effect of embargo on staff in Emergency Departments.

Dr. Geary stated that hospital management provide support to ensure frontline staff are available.

- Clinical Nurse Specialists

Dr. Geary stated that the Emergency Medicine Programme include Clinical Nurse Specialists.

Members thanked Dr. Geary for her excellent presentation.

12:02:05 Confirmation of motion adopted by Joint Committee on 20th March 2012 in relation to provision of dedicated phone line for Forum members to Primary Care Reimbursement Scheme.

The wording of above motion was amended as follows:

That this Joint Committee request that the HSE extend access to its dedicated phone number to all forum members.

**Cllr. P. J. Reilly
Cllr. C. King
Cllr. G. Horkan**

That the elected representatives, members of this Forum have access to the Primary Care Reimbursement Section dedicated phone.

**Cllr. M. Freehill
Cllr. M. Dollard**

Members confirmed the motion.

12:02:06 Motions

Motion 1:

That the Health Service Executive would indicate what projects it intends bringing forward of a capital nature in the context of its service plan for Co. Westmeath.

Cllr. M. Dollard

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr. Jim Curran, Head of Estates. Members noted the report.

Motion 2:

As outlined by HIQA the regulations regards the numbers of beds allowed in a single unit in nursing homes will be reduced to a maximum of two, this will have a serious effect regards the cost to families as the increased costs will be passed on. Therefore this Forum calls on the Minister and the H.S.E. to work together with all stake holders to find a more effective solution to what is going to be a major problem into the future.

Cllr. T. Mc Keigue

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr. David Walsh, Area Manager. Following discussion, it was agreed that a representative of HIQA would be invited to attend a future meeting. Members noted the report.

Motion 3:

That the Manager report on the situation at St Brigids Nursing Home regarding referrals and admissions to in-patient, respite and day care services and that the members be fully briefed on the promised comprehensive consultation process.

Cllr. Maire Devine

A report on this motion was prepared by Mr. David Walsh, Area Manager and noted by the members.

In relation to clinical appropriateness of referrals for respite, Mr. Gerry O'Neill agreed to further clarify criteria used with Mr. David Walsh, Area Manager.

12:02:07 Questions

Responses to questions submitted were circulated to members.

Signed: _____
Cllr. Denis O'Callaghan
Chairperson
Regional Health Forum
Dublin – Mid Leinster

Date: _____