

**Minutes of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid Leinster held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at the Boardroom,  
HSE Area Office, Arden Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly**

**Present:**

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|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Cllr. W. Aird        | 16. Cllr. F. Keena    |
| 2. Cllr. P. Brady       | 17. Cllr. V. Jackson  |
| 3. Cllr. V. Blake       | 18. Cllr. C. King     |
| 4. Cllr. T. Cullen      | 19. Cllr. A. Feeney   |
| 5. Cllr. M. Dalton      | 20. Cllr. T. McKeigue |
| 6. Cllr. C. Devlin      | 21. Cllr. C. O'Connor |
| 7. Cllr. M. Dollard     | 22. Cllr. G. O'Neill  |
| 8. Cllr. P. Doran       | 23. Cllr. P. O'Toole  |
| 9. Cllr L. Dunne        | 24. Cllr. P.J. Reilly |
| 10. Cllr. P. Fleming    | 25. Cllr. O. Smyth    |
| 11. Cllr. P. Hand       | 26. Cllr. C. Smyth    |
| 12. Cllr. G. Kelly      | 27. Cllr. J.King      |
| 13. Cllr E. Fitzpatrick |                       |
| 14. Cllr. M. Duff       |                       |
| 15. Cllr. M. Freehill   |                       |

**Apologies:**

Dr. Susan O'Reilly, CEO, Dublin Midlands Hospital Group

Ms. Eilish Hardiman, CEO, The National Children's Hospital Group

Ms Martina Queally, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation, 6

Mr. Pat Bennett, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation 8, Longford/  
Westmeath/Laois/Offaly/Louth/Meath

Mr. David Walsh, Chief Officer, Community Healthcare Organisation 7, South Dublin/Kildare/West Wicklow,  
Health Service Executive

Cllr. Vicki Casserly

**In attendance:**

Mr. Joseph Ruane, Interim Lead, HSE Regional Health Forum DML

Mr. Trevor O'Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, Dublin Midland Hospital Group

Ms. Frances McNamara, General Manager, Children's Hospital Group

Ms. Dymphna Bracken, Communications Manager CHO8

Ms Paula Lawler, IEHG

Ms. Ann O'Shea, CHO7

Ms. June Boulger, National Lead for Patient and Public Partnership

Ms. Sharon Whelehan, Regional Health Forum Coordinator

Cllr. O'Reilly, Chairperson agreed to suspend Standing Orders to discuss an emergency motion at the request of  
Cllr. Greg Kelly regarding ownership of the new National Maternity Hospital.

## **Suspension of Standing Orders**

Cllr. Kelly proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to discuss the following motion;

I'd like to call on The Department of Health not to give 'sole' ownership of the new €300 million State-funded National Maternity Hospital to The Sisters of Charity as they were one of 18 residential institutions that is highlighted by the Ryan report 2009 to have been responsible for child abuse and They still owe €3 million to the redress scheme for its survivors. The Sisters of Charity, along with three other religious congregations, were responsible for the management of Magdalene Laundries. In 2013 they stated they would not be making ANY contributions to the State redress scheme to the women who had been subject abuse in the Magdalene Laundries. The Department of Health now want to give 'sole' ownership of the new €300 million State-funded National Maternity Hospital and I call on this Forum strongly object to this''

Cllr. Freehill proposed to amend the motion “to make the land available in freehold”. Cllr. McKeigue seconded this.

Cllr. Cullen encouraged negotiation between the state and the sisters of charity, as the Catholic Church was responsible for the setting up of many of Ireland’s hospitals in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Cllr. Dunne objected to Cllr. Cullen’s opinion and seconded Cllr. Kelly’s original motion. She felt that religious orders should have nothing to do with the National Maternity Hospital.

Members advised that they would need to see a copy of the motion in writing before a decision could be made as it was quite detailed.

Mr. Joseph Ruane in response advised that as per 23.6 in the Standing Orders- Motions relating to Representations- when any motion has been adopted or rejected by the forum it shall not be open to any member to propose a similar motion within a further period of 6 months.

It was then agreed by the members to adjourn both motions to the next meeting.

## **17:02:01 Adoption of minutes of the meetings of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid Leinster held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017**

On the proposal of Cllr. McKeigue and seconded by Cllr. McHugh the Minutes of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin Mid-Leinster held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017 were adopted.

## **17:02:02 Chairpersons Correspondence**

Cllr. Reilly acknowledged correspondence received from Mr. John Hennessy regarding Building a Better GP and Primary Care Service. Each member of the forum received a copy of the letter.

## **17:01:03 HSE Update – The National Patient Survey- Ms. June Boulger**

Cllr. PJ Reilly (Chairperson) introduced Ms. June Boulger, National Lead for Patient and Public Partnership. Ms. Boulger gave a detailed presentation to the Forum explaining that the National Patient Experience Survey was launching in May to every person over the age of 18, with a postal address in Ireland, after they had been discharged from hospital.

The National Patient Experience Survey will ask patients about their recent experience in hospital in order to inform and guide quality improvement initiatives for the health service at a local and national level.

The survey is a partnership between the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Department of Health. All adult patients discharged during May 2017 who have spent 24 hours or more in a public acute hospital and have a postal address in the Republic of Ireland will be asked to complete the survey.

Members praised Ms Boulger and were all of the opinion that this was a positive move for the HSE as generally with hospitals, the negatives are usually highlighted throughout the media. This will provide the chance to share more positive experiences.

#### **Who can access these results or are they for internal use only?**

These results will be published by hospital groups and by locality, and will be easily accessed via the HSE website.

#### **What groups will be included in the survey?**

All general hospitals including A&E's throughout the country will be included in the survey. Paediatrics, Maternity and Mental Health services are a lot more complex and so cannot be included in this particular survey.

Members felt that this survey could help address some issues with A&E and admissions into the hospitals as these were the major fall down areas.

#### **Who will the survey target?**

The survey intends to target every single patient who has been admitted to hospital and discharged before the survey closing date. The NHS surveys every 10<sup>th</sup> patient- the HSE aims to be more specific.

#### **How will the visually impaired participate in the survey as it will be done by post?**

Ms Bougler advised that they are in the early stages of providing a service for visually impaired patients. The reason the survey is being done manually via the postal service is because it will target a lot of the older population who would not have access to an online survey.

#### **Step down facilities**

A number of members felt that step down facilities was a major fall down area as patients were left taking up acute beds. Ms Boulger reassured members that there was fourteen questions on the survey covering step down, family support and discharge planning as this seemed like the major fall down areas.

## **17:02:04      Motions**

### **Motion 1**

That the Health Service Executive would indicate what action it is currently taking to retain and recruit Nurses and Midwives in the context of support service delivery?

**Cllr. Michael Dollard**

A response to this motion was prepared by Ms. Claire McMahon, National HR. Members noted the report.

### **Motion 2**

That this Regional Health Forum Dublin Mid-Leinster welcomes the recent passing by the Oireachtas of the Health Amendment Bill which secures medical cards for children in receipt of Domiciliary Care Allowance; congratulates the campaigners and calls on the HSE to confirm what immediate actions are being taken to implement the proposals.

**Cllr. Charlie O'Connor**

A response to this motion was prepared by Mr. Kieran Healy, Head of Customer Service of the Primary Care Reimbursement Service. Members noted the report.

### **Motion 3**

I wish to put a motion to the meeting regarding the appointment of a Dentist to the current vacancy that has occurred at Granard Health Centre, Granard Co Longford.

**Cllr. P.J Reilly**

A response to this motion was prepared by Mr. Pat Bennett, Chief Officer of CHO8. Members noted the report.

### **Motion 4**

To call on Dympna Kavanagh Chief Dental Office, Oral Health Lead to meet with Mr Paddy Fleming and Ms Kirsten Fitzgerald, Dental, Our Lady's Hospital Crumlin to discuss the much needed upstream approach to child oral health and what measures she will put in place to develop strategies and measures to address this prevailing issue and following this give a presentation to the forum to include above clinicians who hold a paramount role in executing this

Clearly, an aging population has a major need, and this must be addressed. This type of approach to child oral health will reap huge benefits in a relatively short space of time, and will confer upon that cohort of children a lifelong health benefit.

To summarise:

For child oral health in Ireland current problems include:

- Lack of early intervention - age one dental visit should be on the health agenda
- Lack of a joined-up multidisciplinary approach to oral health as part of overall health. Oral health should be part of child health screening, and public health nurses and GMPs should be targeted to help identify high risk children and begin appropriate preventive care.
- Lack of an evidence-based primary dental care programme for children
- Lack of adequate secondary care for child dental patients within the HSE service – we recommend a model of care based on the currently successful orthodontic model – Regional Units led by Consultants and staffed by Specialists, supported by teams of general dentists, orthodontic therapist, hygienists, dental nurses, and managers.
- Lack of comprehensive dental services at the two other children’s hospitals (Temple St and Tallaght)
- Inadequate resources at OLCCH to treat the current patient cohort (wait list for GA now at 2 years)

**Cllr. Vicki Casserly**

A response to this motion was prepared by Dr. Phil Jennings, Public Health. Members noted the report.

#### **17.02.05          Questions**

Responses to questions submitted were circulated to members.