

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM - DUBLIN NORTH EAST

FÓRAM RÉIGIÚNACH SLÁINTE - BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH AGUS AN TÓIRTHUAISCEART

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 28TH JULY, 2014 AT 2:00PM

IN THE BOARDROOM, HSE, BECTIVE STREET, KELLS

Members Present

Cllr. Philip Brady	Cllr. Robbie Gallagher	Cllr. Seamus McGrattan
Cllr. Christy Burke	Cllr. Eithne Loftus	Cllr. Lorna Nolan
Cllr. Tommy Byrne	Cllr. David Maxwell	Cllr. Claire O'Driscoll
Cllr. Jack Chambers	Cllr. Paddy Meade	Cllr. Ciaran O'Moore
Cllr. David Costello	Cllr. Mary McCamley	Cllr. Gillian O'Toole
Cllr. Kieran Dennison	Cllr. Paddy McDonald	Cllr. Tomás Sharkey
Cllr. Wayne Forde	Cllr. Peter McVitty	

Not in Attendance

Cllr. Richie Culhane	Cllr. Gary Gannon	Cllr. Darren O'Rourke
Cllr. Declan Flanagan	Cllr. Deirdre Heney	

Apologies

Cllr. Mark Deary	Cllr. Brian McKenna
Cllr. Adrian Henchy	Cllr. Noleen Reilly

Officials Present

Ms. Rosaleen Harlin, Lead Manager, Regional Health Office - HSE DNE
Mr. Robert Kidd, Acting RDPI – HSE DNE
Mr. Des O'Flynn, Area Manager – Dublin North City
Mr. Dermot Monaghan – Area Manager – Louth Meath
Ms. Rose McCaffrey on behalf of Mr. Leo Kinsella, Area Manager – Cavan Monaghan
Mr. Enda Doody on behalf of Ms. Sheila Marshall, A/Area Manager – Dublin North
Mr. Sean Brady, Operations Performance Manager, National Ambulance Service
Ms. Katherine Kellett, Regional Health Office - HSE DNE
Ms. Lorraine Timmons, Regional Health Office - HSE DNE

Mr. Robert Kidd, Acting RDPI in the absence of Ms. Anne Marie Hoey, opened the meeting by welcoming all the members to the first Annual Meeting of the newly elected Forum.

1. Election of Chairperson

Mr. Robert Kidd sought nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Forum.

Cllr. Kieran Dennison was nominated for the position on the proposal of Cllr. David Maxwell and seconded by Cllr. Christy Burke.

As there were no other nominations for the position of Chairperson, Cllr. Dennison was declared elected as Chairperson.

Cllr. Dennison then took the Chair and thanked the members for electing him.

2. Election of Vice-Chairperson

Cllr. Kieran Dennison, Chairperson, sought nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Forum.

Cllr. Claire O'Driscoll was nominated for the position on the proposal of Cllr. Wayne Forde and seconded by Cllr. David Costello.

As there were no other nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson, Cllr. Dennison declared Cllr. Claire O'Driscoll elected as Vice-Chairperson and congratulated her on her appointment.

3. Adoption of minutes of meeting held on Monday, 19th May, 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 19th May, 2014 were adopted by the Forum on the proposal of Cllr. Christy Burke and seconded by Cllr. Eithne Loftus.

4. Health Service Executive Updates

A report was circulated to the meeting which dealt with the following:-

- Opening of the Ashlin Centre, Beaumont Road, Dublin 9.
- Official opening of Summerhill Primary Care Centre.
- Connolly MRI & AMAU Official Opening.
- HSE supports Men's Health Week 2014.
- Haemochromatosis Awareness Events in Louth.
- Free screening and treatment of diabetic retinopathy for people with diabetes.
- Publication of the HSE National Organ Donation and Transplantation Office Annual Report for 2013.
- HSE welcomes a further reduction in the number of births to teenagers in 2013.
- HSE publishes details of convictions for tobacco related offences in first three months of 2014.
- HSE Gay Men's Health Service sees growing number of clients.
- Launch of Soilse report 'Addiction Recovery: A Contagious Paradigm' sets out a case for a recovery focused approach to addiction treatment.
- Health Promoting Schools Yellow Flag raised at Monaghan National Schools.
- Travellers to some African, Asian and Middle Eastern countries alerted to need for polio vaccine.
- People who take part in outdoor pursuits must protect against Lyme disease.
- Sports Day Challenge for Older People in Finglas.

- 25th Anniversary of the opening of Cavan General Hospital.
- Bressie gets Gold at HSE Community Games Launch.
- Launch of 'Art in Hospital Programme' at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda.
- Fun in the sun at the Beaufort House, Navan Garden Party.

The report was noted by the Forum. Some members raised the following issues:

- Request for an update on the Primary Care Centre in Monaghan and any updates on capital projects throughout the Dublin North East region.
- Clarification was sought on the issue of the prescription of contraceptives to minors (under 17's) and the impact this has from a legal perspective for GP's.

Management responded with the following comments:

- It was agreed that a presentation on Capital Projects would be brought to a future meeting of the Forum.
- Clarification would be sought in relation to the issue on prescription of contraceptives to minors.

5. Presentation on the Regional Health Forum Legal Framework

Ms. Rosaleen Harlin, Lead Manager, Regional Health Office, made a presentation to members on the Regional Health Forum Legal Framework (copy appended to the official minute).

The presentation began with an introduction of the Senior Managers present and their roles. Ms. Harlin then outlined the following in relation to the Regional Health Forum:

- Forum Membership and representation from Councils.
- Legislative background and function of the Forum.
- Rules governing the Forum and the Order of Business for meetings.
- Details regarding presentations, motions and questions.
- Establishment of Committees.
- Details in relation to contacts for the Regional Health Office and the process of claiming travel expenses and making representations.
- Information in relation to the structures of HSE Management and the new Acute Hospital Division, including the Hospital Groupings.

Ms. Harlin advised that a full list of contact details for Managers and Departments will be circulated in due course to members.

Cllr. Kieran Dennison thanked Ms. Harlin for her presentation and stated to members that the Regional Health Forum was an excellent opportunity for public representatives to share information and be kept updated on issues happening in the HSE.

6. Consideration of Committee(s) of the Forum.

Following on from the information provided in the presentation and on the proposal of Cllr. Kieran Dennison, it was agreed that the Forum would continue with one Committee. Cllr. Dennison advised the members that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson would be elected at the first meeting of the Committee in October.

7. Chairperson's Correspondence

There was no business under this item.

Other issues that members raised during the course of discussions included the following:-

- Clarification in relation to possible legal action being taken by a Contractor who had tendered for the new National Children's Hospital.
- Request for information for Carer's & Family members on where to source supplies such as disposable gloves in the Meath area. Members advised that these are currently only available from Mullaghboy in Navan but if there could be a distributor in Dunshaughlin this would be of benefit to the public.
- What are the future plans for Our Lady's Hospital, Navan and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda?
- Update on the proposed 100 bed Unit at St. Mary's Hospital, Drogheda.
- What are the short-term plans for Our Lady's Hospital, Navan and the new Emergency Department opening in October?
- Request for a report on a recent Ambulance response case in Drogheda, Co. Louth and the dispatch of the Rapid Response Vehicle from Ardee.
- Request for a review of protocol for Hospital Staff dealing with Dementia patients who present for treatment of other illnesses.
- Update in relation to Regional Ambulance services discussed at previous meetings of the Forum.
- Accessibility of information on Waiting list times and the impact that this would have on GP referrals.
- Why are elderly patients contacted to verify outpatient appointments and the impact that appointment confirmation has on waiting lists?
- Update on the situation where Hospital appointments are cancelled by a patient and no new appointment date is issued.
- Members sought assurances that the Emergency Department at Our Lady's Hospital, Navan would be in full use. What was the timeframe for downgrading? Will there be a public consultation process in relation to the future of Our Lady's Hospital, Navan?
- Request for a Report on the number of medical cards that were returned to their holders under the recent review of medical cards.
- Update on Corduff and Summerhill (Dublin) Primary Care Centre.
- Why would a GP not be allowed to accept new medical card holders?
- Update on the threatened strike action at Cavan General Hospital.
- Issue of car-parking at Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown. There is a need for a change in the pre-payment system.

Management agreed to revert to members before the next meeting on a number of issues which were raised, but the following responses were given on some issues:

- Patients are contacted in relation to their out-patient appointment as a means of verifying attendance at the Clinic and to prevent missed appointments. These calls can often be made out of office working hours as it is not always possible to contact people during the day as they may be out working.
- Each GP practice makes the decision on capacity to provide services safely to GMS patients. The HSE can occasionally obligate a GP to provide services but only in certain circumstances.

8. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the Regional Health Forum will take place on Monday, 22nd September, 2014 at 2:00pm.

Signed:

Kieran Dennison
Chairperson.