

**Minutes of Meeting of the Regional Health Forum West, held on
Tuesday, 22nd February, 2011 at 2.00pm in Room 1,
Education Centre, HSE Offices, Merlin Park, Galway**

Miontuairiscí cruinnithe an Fhórait Réigiúnach Sláinte, ar an Mháirt, 22 Feabhra, 2011 ag 2.00 i.n, sa an tIonad
Oideachais, Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Páirc Mheirlinne, Gaillimh.

Chairperson/Cathaoirleach

Councillor Pádraig Conneely

Members Present/Comhaltaí i Láthair

Cllr Rose Brennan

Cllr Mary Hoade

Cllr Brian Meaney

Cllr John Carroll

Cllr Michael Hourigan

Cllr Michael Mullins

Cllr Catherine Connolly

Cllr Gordon Hughes

Cllr Gerry Murray

Cllr Tom Connolly

Cllr John Kennedy

Cllr Gerry Reynolds

Cllr Joe Cooney

Cllr Sean McGowan

Cllr Jerome Scanlan

Cllr Ger Fahy

Cllr Gerry McLoughlin

Cllr Tony Ward

Cllr Laurence Fallon

Cllr Tom McNamara

Cllr Seamus Weir

Cllr Imelda Henry

Apologies/Leithscéalta

Cllr Bernard McGuinness

Cllr Annie May Reape

Cllr Austin Francis O'Malley

Absent/As Láthair

Cllr Liam Blaney

Cllr Declan Bree

Cllr Tim Broderick

Cllr Ciaran Brogan

Cllr Richard Butler

Cllr Michael Crowe

Cllr Jimmy Harte

Cllr Colm Keaveney

Cllr John Kelly

Cllr Frank McBrearty Jr

Cllr John 'Rocky' McGrath

Cllr Paul Murphy

Cllr Malachy Noone

Cllr Kevin Sheahan

In Attendance/I láthair freisin

Mr. John Hennessy, Regional Director of Operations (RDO)

Dr David O'Keeffe, Clinical Director for Acute and Continuing Care, Galway/Roscommon

Mr Liam Minihan, Asst National Director, Finance

Mr Francis Rogers, Asst National Director, Human Resources

Ms Catherine Cunningham, Office of the Regional Director of Operations

Ms Chris Kane, Office of the Regional Director of Operations

Ms Marie Kennedy, Senior Administrative Officer, Consumer Affairs Area Office

Ms Shirley Murphy, A/Section Officer, Consumer Affairs Area Office

320/31/11 Minutes/Miontuairiscí

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 23rd November, 2010 were proposed by Councillor Michael Mullins, seconded by Councillor John Kennedy and adopted.

321/31/11 Matters Arising/Nithe ag éirí

Tearman Eanna

Cllr Catherine Connolly looked for an update on Tearmann Eanna

Agreed: C Cunningham will forward an update to Cllr Connolly after the meeting.

322/31/11 Chairman's Business/Gnothai an Chathaoirligh

Apologies

The Chairman noted apologies from Councillors Bernard McGuinness, Austin Francis O'Malley and Annie May Reape.

Supplementary Questions – Extended Forum Meeting

The Chairman advised members that he met with John Hennessy, RDO West to discuss the matter of Supplementary Questions, as agreed at the last Forum meeting. As a result of that meeting the Chairman proposed the following Motion to the Forum for discussion/agreement:

'That in special circumstances Regional Health Forum West meetings may be extended to full day meetings, commencing at 11am, where there is a backlog of Forum business.'

The Motion was agreed and seconded by Cllrs Tony Ward and Michael Mullins.

The Chairman also advised members that the matter of **Committees** would be raised at the next meeting of the Four Forum Chairs. The existing two RHF West Committees are Service based; 1) Hospitals and 2) Acute Services.

Members may wish to consider alternative Committee models as Health Services are now integrating.

Members offered the following suggestions:

1. Divide Committees on a geographic basis, i.e. into two areas.
2. Continue with informal local county meetings between HSE Managers and Public Representatives.

The Chairman agreed to bring members' suggestions to the Four Chair's meeting and revert to members at the next Forum meeting.

323/31/11 Reports from Committees/Tuairisc Cathaoirligh na g Coisti

Cllr Rose Brennan, Vice-Chairperson of the Hospital Committee briefed members on the last two Committees held on 7th September, 2010 and 14th December, 2010.

Cllr Tom McNamara, Chairperson of the PCCC Committee briefed members on the last two Committee meetings held on 7th September, 2010 and 7th December, 2010.

The next Committee meetings are scheduled to take place in HSE Offices, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim as follows:

1. Hospital Committee, Tuesday 22nd March, 2011 at 2.00pm
2. PCCC Committee, Tuesday 29th March, 2011 at 2.00pm

324/31/11 HSE West Service Plan 2011 Presentation/Fóram Réigiúnach Sláinte, An T-Iarthar, Plean Seirbhíse 2011

Mr John Hennessy, Regional Director of Operations presented members with an overview of the HSE West Service Plans for 2011,

Members received a copy of the HSE National Service Plan 2011 and were advised that the HSE West Regional Service Plan 2011 would be published and circulated to all members in the near future.

The key issues/queries raised by members included:

- Cost Control / Procurement Savings; what was happening in the past,
- Clarity on the future of Acute Services at Ennis General Hospital, and clarification re hospital 'safety', does this refer to the building structures or services provided, etc? Some members felt that the transfer of acute services to MWRH should be put on hold until the HSE are satisfied that existing resources are not adequate enough to provide the safer services required.
- Where are the real concerns/issues reflected in the NSP 2011, i.e. the language being used does not reflect the actual issues, e.g. long Waiting Lists,

- Status of the Primary Care Team in Galway,
- What areas of staff are suffering as a result of the Moratorium,
- More clarification on the Change Programmes, i.e. Emergency Departments seeing 20% less patients,
- Poor public confidence in the Health Services,
- Care in the community for Older Persons; enhanced Home Help services,
- Update on reconfiguration of Roscommon County Hospital;
- Clarification on how savings in stocks (drugs) will be made,
- Update on the issues of overtime and absenteeism,
- Continued effect of the Moratorium, i.e. Senior Audiologist Scientist post remains unfilled,
- Will the planned reduction of inpatients effectively close Hospital Units/Wards,
- Clarification on the workings of the Medical Assessment Unit at Galway University Hospital,
- Clarification on the costs of any rental accommodation in Roscommon,
- Early assessment of Older Persons on admission to hospital, for Home Care; this would assist with earlier discharges,
- Update on Primary Care Teams in Roscommon town and Monkstown,
- Clarification on HIQA; who do they report to,
- Update on the amount currently owed to the HSE by Private Care Providers,
- Clarity on HSE home care rates versus RCCN rates,
- More clarity around the Activity Targets of .651%,
- What level of management remains in the HSE West, since the employment control process was completed.

The RDO advised members that he would be happy to update members again on the future of Acute Services in Clare, and advised that key changes in that area will happen when it is safe to do so. Safety concern, which were the main drivers for the Mid West Acute Change Programme relate to issues such as Infection Control, Equipment, Hygiene, etc. The Mid West now have a single Acute Service working from 4 Acute sites.

The RDO agreed to look at the language used in the Service Plan and acknowledged the unacceptable waiting lists. He advised that the Moratorium and Exit Schemes are a key factor for the lack of resources now available; that Corporate redeployments to the critical frontline services are taking place; Primary Care is the foundation of the Health Services and the challenge for management is managing with the resources available.

Members were advised that although there are difficulties with the infrastructural plans for the Primary Care Team in Galway, the staff are effectively working as a Team.

In relation to the Change Programme, Emergency Departments will not turn away any members of the public, but will aim to direct medical care patients to more appropriate sites of care; the Acute Medicine and ED Programme will drive this change.

The RDO acknowledged the pressure points in the system; he highlighted the level of resources, budget and range of services and sub specialties available in the health services, some of which are regarded as worldclass.

The RDO assured members that Older Persons services, including Home Help services, is one of the areas protected in the HSE's Service Plan for 2011.

Members were advised that reconfiguration of acute services for Galway and Roscommon will proceed as planned, and that patient safety is the key driver for these reconfiguration plans.

Savings made on stock is achieved by price negotiation and stock reduction; negotiation is also happening nationally re Agency Staff, and savings have been made in 2010 on overtime and travel expenses.

At present some patients will be referred to the Medical Assessment Unit at GUH via their GP or through the Emergency Department; the Acute Medicine Programme will be key in driving changes in these processes.

Members were advised that the proposed development of a new 8 storey block is currently for approval by Public Private Partnership. This is a funding mechanism whereby the infrastructure is built via private investment, but will not have any involvement in the management of services.

The Primary Care Team/centre build, at Monksfield, Roscommon, is expected to commence sometime in the 2nd quarter of the year.

Interviews for the Senior Audiological Scientist will take place on the 28th March, 2011; these posts are being advertised on the International Market, as difficulties have been experienced attracting applicants to the HSE West area, to date. Members were advised that HIQA was established under the Health Act 2007; it functions as an Independent Regulator and reports to the Minister for Health and Children.

Improvements have been achieved re Income Collection; debtor days have reduced from 142 days to 135 days, the long term target is to reduce it to 65 days. GUH are currently piloting a new system whereby Private Insurers are being billed directly by the HSE.

Agreed: RDO will forward details of the complement of Social Workers in Galway, to Cllr Catherine Connolly

Agreed: The RDO committed to setting out explicit targets in the HSE West Regional Service Plan 2011

Agreed: Members will receive an update on Waiting Lists at forthcoming Forum meetings, e.g. Pain Clinics, etc.

Agreed: The 'Footprint' Document, which informs the Acute Medicine and ED Change Programme, will be circulated to members

Agreed: Cllr Ward is to receive further details re the PCT at Monksfield, Roscommon

Agreed: Cllr Ward is to receive further details re Rental Accommodation in Roscommon

Agreed: Clarification is to issue to Cllr Scanlan re the Activity Targets of .651%

Adjournment

The meeting thus adjourned due to the lack of a quorum.

It was agreed that a Special Forum Meeting will take place as a continuation of today's meeting, prior to the scheduled meeting on the 26th April, 2011 and to deal with Questions and Motions.

The Chairman will meet with the Office of the RDO to make arrangement for same and members will be advised in due course.

It was noted that the following members were in attendance at the time of adjournment:

Chairperson, Cllr Pdraig Conneely

Cllr Michael Mullins

Cllr Catherine Connolly

Cllr Mary Hoade

Cllr Sean McGowan

Cllr Jerome Scanlan

Cllr Tony Ward

Cllr Tom McNamara

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach/Chairman

Adopted at Regional Health Forum Meeting on Tuesday 26th April, 2011

26th April, 2011