

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

Chairperson,
Cllr. Jason Murphy

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MINUTES - MEETING OF REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM SOUTH

Thursday 20th September 2018 at 2pm
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY HALL, CORK

Present:

Cllr. Timmy Collins
Cllr. Brendan Cronin
Cllr. John Joe Culloty
Cllr. Michael Doyle
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. John Francis Flynn
Cllr. Denis Foley
Cllr. Deirdre Forde
Cllr. Breda Gardner
Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan
Cllr. Willie Kavanagh
Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley
Cllr. Joe Malone

Cllr. Michael McCarthy
Cllr. Arthur McDonald
Cllr. Louise McLoughlin
Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Bobby O'Connell
Cllr. Brian O'Donoghue
Cllr. Michael O'Ryan
Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Damian Quigg
Cllr. John Sheehan
Cllr. Joe Sullivan
Cllr. Danielle Twomey
Cllr. Tom Wood

Apologies:

Cllr. Henry Cremin
Cllr. Mary Shields

In Attendance:

Dr Ger O' Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, South/South West Hospitals Group
Mr Ger Reaney, Chief Officer, Cork Kerry Community Health
Ms. Linda Knox, Primary Care Unit Manager, South East Community Health Organisation
Members of the HSE South Forum Office staff

On behalf of Regional Health Forum South members and HSE Management/staff Cllr Jason Murphy, Chairperson passed a Vote of Sympathy for Cllr. John Carey RIP. He informed members that John passed away at UHW Saturday week ago following a short illness.

Cllr Murphy then asked that all present would stand for a minute of silence in the memory of Cllr. Carey.

Cllr Arthur McDonald, Cllr Seanie Power, Cllr Damian Quigg, Cllr Breda Gardner offered sympathy and condolences on the death of Cllr Carey, R.I.P. and appreciation of his service to the Regional Health Forum South.

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Thursday 21st June 2018

On the proposal of Cllr Brendan Cronin, seconded by Cllr Timmy Collins, the Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Thursday, June 21st, 2018 were approved and adopted by the members.

2. Chairperson's correspondence

The Chairperson informed members that Ms Anna Marie Lanigan sends her apologies and introduced Ms Linda Knox who is deputising for her.

Members were reminded to switch off mobile phones.

3. Reports by Chairpersons of Committees

Reports by Chairpersons of:

- South East Committee Meeting held on 10th April 2018
- South West Committee Meeting held on 12th April 2018

The reports of both meetings were taken as read. The Chairperson then asked members to note the upcoming dates as follows:

- South East Committee Meeting held on 4th December 2018
- South West Committee Meeting held on 18th October 2018

4. Notices of Motion

The Chairperson informed members that Motion 4(a) would be taken and discussed with Question 5(a).

(a) Cllr. Tom Wood moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"With an estimated million people awaiting various forms of treatments, many for a lengthy period of time, this Forum calls on the HSE to maximize the potential of Our Lady's Hospital, Cashel, renovated in recent years at a cost of €13 million and only operational Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Thousands of people, young and old, from Tipperary and adjoining Counties could be treated there."

A written response from Ms. Anna Marie Lanigan, Interim Chief Officer was circulated to members and noted.

And

5(a) Cllr. Tom Wood put forward the following question:

"In the expectation that the new 92 bedded residential centre announced for Cashel as a replacement for Saint Patrick's Hospital will be in place there by 2021 so as to meet HIQA standards, can the relevant section of the HSE show us a plan of the centre and advise as to when a planning application will be lodged with Tipperary County Council?"

A written response from Ms. Anna Marie Lanigan was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr Wood noted the response but was disappointed with same, the main building is not in use and there is available space in the Hospital.

Ms Linda Knox, Primary Care Unit Manager responded and said there are large numbers of people from Cashel and the surrounding areas receiving services in Cashel which include both Residential (24/7 services) and Community based services. Recently a Children Disability Service commenced from a new location in Cashel which is a multi disciplinary service including an Early Intervention Team and School Age Team. There is also the Minor Injuries Unit and Diagnostic Services on site.

(b) Cllr. John Sheehan moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"That the HSE would put in place measures to ensure that CAMS referrals from the North Lee Catchment area are dealt with without having to send all vulnerable children to A&E"

A written response from Mr Ger Reaney, Chief Officer, was circulated to members and noted.

Mr Reaney confirmed that this is receiving the highest priority from the Management Team, there is an issue with recruitment and a shortage of trained staff. A Medical Manpower Manger is being recruited to enhance the current work on the recruitment and replacement of staff.

(c) Cllr. Brendan Cronin moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"Since January 2015 (a) how many individual residential houses have the HSE purchased in the Killarney/South Kerry area, (b) what was the total cost of each house including all upgrading and refurbishment works, (c) how many HSE staff are assigned to each house, (d) as these houses were built with planning as private dwellings and are now HSE owned care facilities was planning permission sought for "change of use" and (e) did the HSE have an information evening/ discussions with adjoining residents to outline the importance and need for these care facilities in their communities."

A written response from Mr Ger Reaney was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr Cronin asked if a premises in Gortnacarraige, Killarney has been bought by the HSE, Ger Reaney responded and advised that to the best of his knowledge as and from this morning, there are 3 houses purchased, two are open and the third will be open within two months.

Cllr Cronin emphasised the importance of holding local information / open meetings with local residents.

Mr Reaney advised the meeting that the HSE is very proud of Cluain Fhionnáin and

St Raphael's and the benefit for residents and their families. The decision with regard to the appropriate level and method of communication with local communities is left to the Provider to decide in each circumstance.

Cllr Cronin asked a question regarding the plans for Cluan Fhionnáin. Mr Reaney advised that the property is being considered as a possible location for a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and there are other options under consideration at present also.

(d) Cllr. John Joe Culloty moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"That the HSE contact the Irish Blood Transfusion Service to ask, what progress has been made to allow people with haemochromatosis to donate blood?"

A written response from Ms Mirenda O'Donovan, Communications Manager, IBTS was circulated to members and noted.

(e) Cllr. Breda Gardner moved the following Motion, standing in her name:

"I request that hence forth that the HSE will routinely and openly publish all reports which cover cardiac care in the South East and be made available to public representatives."

A written response from Dr Ger O'Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr Gardner wanted to know why the report was not made public as we need to work together. Dr O'Callaghan advised that this is not a public document and was a report by Clinical Projects, HSE. He hadn't seen the report before it was sent to him by Cllr Gardner.

5. Questions

(b) Cllr. Michael Ryan put forward the following question:

"To ask a question about the Health Centre at Fourmilewater, Ballymacarbry and a definitive on when a new doctor will be in place? Interviews were held in July this year but still there is no sign of an announcement, even though it is believed that someone has been offered the post. I would appreciate a timeline if at all possible and to know when plan B will take effect please."

A written response from Ms. Anna Marie Lanigan was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr Ryan requested that no contract should be signed unless the successful candidate can give full-time attendance as per the requirements of the HSE. If the candidate cannot fulfil the required conditions then the post should be offered to the next person on the panel.

Ms Knox responded and advised that the HSE remains committed to a full GP service in Fourmilewater. The Contract has been issued and response is due next week.

Cllr Ryan reiterated that the GP needs to agree to a commitment of 9 to 5, 5 day week.

Ms Knox advised that this post was advertised as a full-time vacancy and this is the commitment that the HSE are looking for.

(c) Cllr. John Joe Culloty put forward the following question:

"To ask the HSE, to immediately address the chronic understaffing at University Hospital Kerry, including Consultants, Doctors, Nurses & Healthcare Professionals."

A written response from Dr Ger O'Callaghan was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr Culloty stated that there are very long Waiting Lists and he wanted assurance that the hospital won't be downgraded to Level 2.

Cllr John Francis Flynn seconded the motion, there are vacancies in the hospital and he asked for clarification on the process for filling posts and what does it cost the HSE to recruit. HSE are not enticing people to work in UHK and rumour has it big amount are being paid to recruitment agencies for staff.

Cllr Brendan Cronin supported the motion. He stated that Consultants are openly expressing concerns and frontline staff are very concerned.

Dr Ger O'Callaghan stated that there is a lot of negative press over the last while in regard to UHK and this is affecting staff morale. He stated that there is no question of downgrading UHK, in fact it's quite the opposite, there has been a 10% increase in staffing over the past 3 years with 1,100 staff in UHK. There are 42 Consultant with 10 vacancies currently, all filled by Locums pending permanent filling. It is difficult to attract permanent Consultants to UHK and it takes 6 to 9 months to recruit and 6 to 12 months before the new Consultant is in post.

Dr O'Callaghan stated that there was a meeting with the Consultants a few weeks ago and the majority were satisfied with the meeting and they have agreed to meet again.

Dr O'Callaghan informed the forum that a lot of work has been going on in UHK over a number of years. There had been a shortage of nursing staff but this is now resolving. Radiographers are proving difficult to recruit, however, the SSWHG in collaboration with UCC are developing a Masters programme which may attract Radiographers to work within the Group.

On a Point of Order, Cllr Timmy Collins informed the forum that he felt it unfair that one particular issue was taking up so much time. Cllr Culloty responded that he made no apology for taking up speaking time on this issue.

Cllr John Francis Flynn asked if Dr Ger O'Callaghan would issue a statement regarding recruitment for UHK. Anecdotally he had heard that it costs €10,000 to recruit a nurse. Dr O'Callaghan advised that there were agency nurses recruited through an employment agency last year and a relocation package was in place to facilitate same, which involved relocation fees.

(d) Cllr. Breda Gardner moved the following Motion, standing in her name:

"Can we have an into date report on 24/7 Cardiac Care Services in UHW.
Who makes the decision that the relocatable lab is diagnostic or PCT?
Who authorised the relocatable Cath Lab to UHW?
Who signed off on it? What is the cost of the relocatable lab?"

A written response from Mr Ger O'Callaghan was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr Gardner said that she was glad there was a meeting with the Minister, 24/7

service ought to be in place and they had been promised that.

Dr Ger O'Callaghan advised that this is the Governments position.

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald stated that he was glad the report was leaked as this was an internal report for HSE eyes only and stated that citizens deserve 24/7 Lab.

Cllr Sean Power said 24/7 Cath Lab was required but welcomes the 2nd Cath Lab.

Cllr Murphy, Chair of the Regional Health Forum wished to put on the record that the HSE met urgently last week in Committee to clarify the current situation with regard to the Lab. Ger O'Callaghan confirmed that he was at a meeting in Leinster House on Tuesday where the Minister asked the HSE to proceed with the Modular Lab and commence the Estimates process.

Cllr Murphy noted that it was not just the Independent parties that want a 24/7 service, this is what is wanted by people from all political parties

7. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 22nd November 2018, at 2pm in Council Chambers, County Hall, Cork.

The Chairman asked members to note the foregoing arrangements.