

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

Chairperson,
Cllr. Jason Murphy

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MINUTES - MEETING OF REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM SOUTH

Thursday 21st June 2018 at 2pm
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY HALL, CORK

Present:

Cllr. John Carey RIP
Cllr. Timmy Collins
Cllr. Brendan Cronin
Cllr. John Joe Culloty
Cllr. Davy Daniels
Cllr. Mary Rose Desmond
Cllr. Michael Doyle
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Breda Gardner
Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan
Cllr. Willie Kavanagh
Cllr. George Lawlor
Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley
Cllr. Joe Malone
Cllr. Michael McCarthy

Cllr. Rachel McCarthy
Cllr. Susan McCarthy
Cllr. Arthur McDonald
Cllr. Louise McLoughlin
Cllr. Bernard Moynihan
Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Ray Murphy
Cllr. Bobby O'Connell
Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Damian Quigg
Cllr. John Sheehan
Cllr. Mary Shields
Cllr. Frank Staples
Cllr. Joe Sullivan

Apologies:

Cllr. Henry Cremin
Cllr. Denis Foley
Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro
Cllr. Tom Wood

In Attendance:

Ms Bridie O'Sullivan, Group Chief DON & Midwifery, South/South West Hospitals Group
Mr Ger Reaney, Chief Officer, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare
Mr Fiachra O' Ceilleachair, Media Relations/Communications, South East Community Health Organisation
Members of the HSE South Forum Office staff

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Thursday 17th May 2018

On the proposal of Cllr. Davy Daniels, seconded by Cllr. Brendan Cronin, the Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Thursday, May 17th, 2018 were approved and adopted by the members.

2. Chairperson's correspondence

There was no correspondence to consider.

Election of Chairperson:

The outgoing Chairman Cllr. Bobby O'Connell thanked the HSE Management and members for their help and support during his term as Chairperson of the HSE South Forum. He recalled that there had been some particularly sensitive issues to address.

Tributes were paid to Cllr. O'Connell by several Councillors who thanked him for the efficiency and fairness extended to all members, during his term of office.

Cllr. Jason Murphy was proposed by Cllr. Joe Sullivan and seconded by Cllr. John Joe Culloty. As there were no other nominations, Cllr. Murphy was elected. On assuming the Chair Cllr. Murphy thanked his proposer, seconder and the members for electing him as Chairperson for the coming year. He complimented and congratulated Cllr. Bobby O'Connell for his contribution and looks forward to working with the members and HSE management, to enhance of our services.

Election of Vice Chairperson:

Cllr. Arthur McDonald was proposed by Cllr. Mary Rose Desmond and seconded by Cllr. Joe Sullivan

As there were no other nominations, Cllr. McDonald was deemed elected.

3. Reports from Chairpersons of the Committee meetings held on:

- (a)** South East Committee Meeting held on 10th April 2018 in Kilkenny
- (b)** South West Committee Meeting held on 12th April 2018 in Tralee

The two reports were taken as read.

The next Committee meetings will be held as follows:

- (c)** South East Committee Meeting, 16th October 2018, in Kilkenny
- (d)** South West Committee Meeting, 18th October, in Tralee.

Members noted the arrangements

4. Presentation on CPE

Professor Martin Cormican, HSE, National Lead for Health Care Associated Infection and Antimicrobial Resistance gave a very informative, timely and well received presentation to the members and HSE Management. An e copy will be circulated, by the HSE South Forum Office.

The declaration of the Public Health Emergency by the Taoiseach last October has led to significant efforts being made to meet the challenges posed by this latest

super bug Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacterales (CPE). Professor Cormican emphasised the importance of proper hand washing, advised that 433 new CPE patients had been recorded in 2017, that they have rights to diagnosis and treatment in the Irish health system and that the problem is a world wide issue. He explained how the bug is passed on, the symptoms, the challenges in places like hospitals, where staff interact with many patients who are sick, vulnerable and whose resistance is low. Action is needed as soon as a case is identified, because the CPE is still going strong after eight months of efforts to address it. The need to reduce antibiotic use in Ireland was highlighted. Professor Cormican asked the members to encourage people to eat well, wash their hands properly keep up to date with information and share the knowledge. The use of vaccines should be promoted and some helpful web site addresses were given.

Questions from members about the checking process in Irish hospitals, the potential for use of more natural medicines, the overuse of antibiotics, increasing the testing rate among patients, arrangements for staff testing, connections with boil water notices, closure of beaches because of water quality, the changing shift in attitude towards infected patients in the community, audit findings in GP practices and antibiotic prescribing reductions, overdoing detergent use and cleaning at home, connections between animals and humans per the food chain were all addressed satisfactorily by Professor Cormican.

In conclusion, the Chairperson thanked him for his presentation and advice to members.

5. Notices of Motion

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

“To ask the HSE, to provide to us, the number of children who’s assessment of needs is presently overdue in Kerry, to give a breakdown of same, and to explain what measures are being put in place to deal with the unacceptable delays experienced by these children.”

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

In response to a further query from Cllr. Culloty, Mr Reaney updated him on the progress being made with the outstanding reports and confirmed that many of children concerned are already in receipt of services. The CAMHS service has been enhanced by the filling of a vacant post and increase from 2 to 3 Consultant Psychiatrists in Kerry.

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

“That the HSE would report on progress of the delivery and operationalisation of primary care centres in Cork.”

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

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

“To call on the Regional Health Forum South Members to support requirements of Stand4Women. Stand4Women supports women and families affected by the Cervical Smear Scandal, by visibly demonstrating that we are with them, and by calling for immediate action by government and the HSE on this issue. To this end they declared **three** urgent policy requirements:

- 1.** Immediate Bill on Mandatory Disclosure. Bill to be implemented with an agreed timeline.
- 2.** Active and independent support for those affected by the scandal, including and not limited to, an immediate point of contact for those affected.
- 3.** Immediate access for all affected to a multidisciplinary support team.

I ask that we write to the Mr John Gleeson, Programme Director, Cervical Check, the Taoiseach, Mr Leo Varadkar, the Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris and Mr Ciarán Breen, Director, State Claims Agency.”

A written response from Mr Tom Fitzpatrick, Communications Officer, National Screening Service was circulated to members and noted.

Mr Reaney updated Cllr. Gardner on progress made since the item was discussed at the May meeting. The HSE has been working as planned with the majority of the affected women being met by May 18th and discussions are now ongoing regarding their needs. The Euro 2,000 payments towards their expenses have been activated. The entire process is ongoing with support being provided according to the individual needs of the patients.

In response to Cllr. Gardner’s query about HSE spending on research Mr Reaney advised that the South/South West Hospital Group and Cork Kerry Community Healthcare are committed to research which is done through bodies such as the Health Research Board nationally. Locally the Hospitals and Community Healthcare Organisations work with third level institutes e.g. UCC.

6. Questions

(a) Cllr. Joe Sullivan put forward the following question:

“What is the up to date position with regard to the now derelict Health Centre, at Camolin, Co Wexford?”

A written response from Ms. Aileen Colley, Chief Officer, South East Community Healthcare was circulated to members and noted.

Cllr. Sullivan expressed his disappointment that the premises has been vacant for four years and there still isn’t any indication of what will be done with it.

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

“At what stage is the process of providing a Primary Care Centre in Killarney?”

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

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

“To ask the HSE how many inpatient beds are available for the treatment of children in the HSE South, what is the percentage occupancy rate of those beds, if in-patient beds are provided out of State and what is the cost of these placements?”

A written response from Dr. Gerard O’Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, South/South West Hospital Group was circulated to members and noted.

7. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20th September 2018, at 2pm in Council Chambers, County Hall, Cork.

The Chairman asked members to note the foregoing arrangements.