

REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM

Chairperson,
Cllr. John Joe Culloty

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MINUTES - MEETING OF REGIONAL HEALTH FORUM SOUTH

Thursday 24th March 2016 @ 2pm
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNTY HALL, CORK

Present:

Cllr. John Buttimer
Cllr. Timmy Collins
Cllr. Henry Cremin
Cllr. John Joe Culloty **Chairperson**
Cllr. Davy Daniels
Cllr. Michael Doyle
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald
Cllr. Denis Foley
Cllr. Breda Gardner
Cllr. Joe Harris
Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae
Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan
Cllr. Willie Kavanagh
Cllr. Mike Kennelly

Cllr. George Lawlor
Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley
Cllr. Michael McCarthy
Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Bobby O'Connell
Cllr. Aaron O'Sullivan
Cllr. John Pender
Cllr. Seanie Power
Cllr. Damian Quigg
Cllr. William Quinn
Cllr. Bob Ryan
Cllr. Frank Staples
Cllr. Joe Sullivan

Apologies:

Cllr. Deirdre Forde
Cllr. Imelda Goldsboro
Cllr. Joe Malone
Cllr. Louise McLoughlin
Cllr. John Sheehan
Cllr. Mary Shields
Cllr. Tom Wood

In Attendance:

Dr Ger O' Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer, South/South West Hospitals Group
Mr Ger Reaney, Chief Officer, Area 4 Community Health Organisation
Ms Anna-Marie Lanigan, Area Manager, Area 5, Community Health Organisation
Members of the HSE South Forum Office staff

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Thursday 5th November 2015

On the proposal of Cllr. Timmy Collins, seconded by Cllr. Denis Foley, the Minutes of the Forum meeting held on Thursday, November 5th 2015 were approved and adopted by the members.

2. Chairperson's correspondence

Members were reminded to switch off mobile phones.

Ms. Aileen Colley, Chief Officer sends her apologies and Ms. Anna Marie Lanigan, Area Manager will replace her today.

Congratulations were extended to three of our Forum members who were successful in the General Election to the 32nd Dail on 26th February 2016 – Deputy Mary Butler, Deputy James Browne and Deputy Danny Healy-Rae.

Two new Forum Members were welcomed to their first meeting Cllr. Johnny Healy-Rae (Kerry County Council) and Cllr. Willie Kavanagh (Wexford County Council).

The February Forum meeting was postponed due to its proximity to the General Election. It was agreed that the meeting would be rescheduled for June 16th and that routine business would be transacted leaving June 23rd free for the 'Healthy Ireland National Implementation Plan 2015 – 2107' presentation and discussion.

Presentations to members have been arranged for upcoming meetings. HIQA will present in May and the Health and Wellbeing Directorate of HSE will present on "Healthy Ireland National Implementation Plan 2015 to 2017" in June. Copies of this plan are available at today's meeting so that members may read it ahead of the presentation.

3. Reports by Chairpersons of:

- (a) South West Committee Meeting held on 21st January 2016
- (b) South East Committee Meeting held on 19th January 2016

The two reports were taken as read on the proposal of Cllr. Denis Foley and seconded by Cllr. Davy Daniels.

4. Presentations from the HSE Management on Operational Plan 2016

The following presentations were given –

- (a) Dr. G. O'Callaghan – South/South West Hospitals Group
- (b) Mr. G. Reaney – Cork & Kerry Community Healthcare Organisation
- (c) Ms. Anna Marie Lanigan – Community Healthcare Organisation Area 5 (South East)

Queries raised by Members on the following topics were answered by the respective Manager –

- Tobacco Free Campus Cork University Hospital
- Impact of Demographics on Acute Hospitals
- Additional beds in West Kerry
- Recruitment of Nurses

- University Hospital Waterford Theatre Refurbishment (Dr. O'Callaghan to provide a report for the next meeting – Cllr. D. Daniels).

5. Notices of Motion

(a) Cllr. Henry Cremin moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"Can the HSE confirm the number of people who attended A & E in all hospitals in early January for treatment of injuries such as fractured limbs/sprains etc due to falling on icy conditions in Cork City?"

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

Cllr. Cremin thanked Dr. O'Callaghan for his response and said that he raised the matter because of the particular problems with weather conditions over two weeks early in 2016. The EDs in our hospitals were overstretched because of a lack of gritting by Local Authorities in public areas and there had been many falls and injuries as a result, particularly of elderly people. Following discussion it was agreed to write to all Local Authorities in the Forum Area, asking for their attention to this problem in the future.

(b) Cllr. Denis Foley moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"Access to 24/7 crisis support: Mental Health Services are still not providing 24/7 crisis intervention services as is the norm in all areas. People in mental health crisis are still suffering lengthy waits in busy A&E Departments, at times up to 8 hours or more, before receiving any support. Ireland continues to have a high suicide rate, why is this gap in crisis services allowed to persist?"

The emergency numbers are not easily accessible either as one has to go through a lengthy process to finally hear from an answering machine.

That a report be provided on the range of psychiatric services in the HSE South, with particular emphasis on emergency services available for citizens who experience problems at weekends and the type of after care available for those who experience breakdowns".

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

Cllr. Foley thanked Mr. Reaney and Ms. Lanigan for their response. He noted that these services are not always accessible and require further investment and enhancement. The high rate of suicide was acknowledged and anything that can be done to help those at risk is a valuable service. Cllr. Lawlor asked for clarification about admissions procedures for Co. Wexford patients who are referred to University Hospital Waterford from Wexford General Hospital. Ms. Lanigan explained the process and detailed the various support services available across the South East including Wexford and Waterford. The availability of the weekend Home Based Treatment Teams was emphasised along with the Caredoc, Crisis Teams and Assertive Outreach Teams.

The Self Harm Intervention Programme and the Liaison Psychiatric Service in EDs at the General Hospitals were also highlighted.

The HSE is working with all Local Authorities in the South East Area to develop suicide awareness programmes.

Cllr. Lawlor noted the details provided and acknowledged the significant progress which has been made in recent years. Cllr. Gardner emphasised the importance of Mental Health education in the schools and that people need to understand their emotions and find a way of changing how they feel. She asked for more investment in research. Cllr. Joe Harris felt that there is repetition in the admissions process and that more empathy needs to be shown to patients who may be in a chronic condition. He asked for a more user friendly process to be applied.

Concluding the discussion Ms. Lanigan undertook to clarify the admissions process for Cllr. Lawlor and to ensure Cllr. Harris' views are acknowledged. The electronic procedure is on the way to implementation and that will help to eliminate the current difficulties.

In response to Cllr. Gardner, she advised that changes in the HSE Health and Well Being Service are resulting in more emphasis on prevention.

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

"As there is still no fulltime GP Service to cater for the needs of the people of Rathmore, I call on the HSE to again advertise for this position. If this is not possible, can we view the contract which was drawn up for the Doctor who was awarded this position. If the needs of the people of this area are not catered for in the near future, I will be calling on the HSE to provide a fulltime locum, along with a suitable premises".

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

Cllr. Culloty asked if the GP was still interested in serving Rathmore despite the difficulties in attracting an assistant or locum. Noting the problems generally with rural appointments he felt that a fulltime GP is required and hopes that the GP will remain in Rathmore.

Cllr. Culloty feels that the HSE needs to re-advertise if the existing GP does not intend to provide a full time service in Rathmore.

In response Mr. Reaney confirmed the HSE's commitment to a full time service and acknowledged that the GP made every effort to secure an assistant but no candidate could be recruited.

He noted that many GPs now won't work alone in a practice and that support from an adjacent area might help. Details are awaited about an agreement between the IMO and Department of Health regarding rural practice allowances which might be helpful.

In the meantime, the HSE remains open to all options for filling the post on a fulltime basis and will continue to work with the appointed GP in that respect.

(d) Cllr. John Buttimer moved the following Motion, standing in the name of Deirdre Forde:

"That the HSE explain in writing and in detail

- (i) its plans for the provision for the long term care for Day Services for 15 young adults from 'An Tuath Nua' specifically those who are graduating in June 2016 and
- (ii) what improved and suitable provision for Respite Care for those currently in post 18 services who are in urgent need of Respite Care breaks in line with their specific needs for 2016 and beyond
- (iii) to commit and meet with the families to give an update on issues raised by them at their last meeting with officials and public representatives".

also

5(b) Cllr. Deirdre Forde put forward the following question:

"The HSE clarify matters in relation to building in COPE which has been vacant for 18 years, particularly in view of the commitment from the parents of An Tuath Nua to work with the HSE and COPE to make a Centre of Excellence in that campus building.

A written response from Mr. Ger Reaney was circulated to members in relation to both the Motion 4(d) and Question 5(b) above and was noted.

- (e) Cllr. Henry Cremin moved the following motion standing in the name of Cllr. Damien Quigg.

"That the Forum, support my motion to have a Rheumatology Nurse appointed as soon as possible to University Hospital Kerry".

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

- (f) Cllr. Mike Kennelly moved the following Motion, standing in his name:

"That the HSE make the drug known as (Orkambi) immediately available to Cystic Fibrosis Sufferers in Ireland".

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

In response Cllr. Kennelly advised the members that he wanted to highlight a particular case following a recent presentation in Tralee. The Drug is not yet available in Ireland but it is valuable because it works on the causes of Cystic Fibrosis. He is asking the HSE to do what it can to provide the drug for Irish patients.

In response Mr. Ger O'Callaghan accepted the points made by Cllr. Kennelly. He received the information used in his response from the NPCD (National Primary Care Division).

6. Questions

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

"To ask the HSE, if the people who are cared for in Lantern Lodge in Killarney, move to the proposed premises, will they continue to receive meals, have

showering facilities, clothes washing service etc., as is currently provided for them in lantern Lodge?”

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

(c) Cllr. Henry Cremin put forward the following question standing in the name of Cllr Damian Quigg:

“Is the Dexa Scanner in University Hospital Kerry currently in use and how many people are availing of this service currently?”

A written response from Mr. T.J. O’Connor was circulated to members and noted.

7. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 19th May 2016, at 2pm in Council Chambers, County Hall, Cork.

The Chairman asked members to note the foregoing arrangements.