

**Minutes of Meeting of the Regional Health Forum West, held on  
Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2011 at 11.00am in Room 1,  
Education Centre, HSE Offices, Merlin Park, Galway**

Miontuairiscí cruinnithe an Fhóiraim Réigiúnach Sláinte, ar an Mháirt, 12 Aibreán. 2011, ag 11.00 .i.n, sa an tIonad Oideachais, Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Páirc Mheirlinne, Gaillimh.

**Chairperson/Cathaoirleach**

Councillor Pádraig Conneely

**Members Present/Comhaltaí i Láthair**

Cllr Liam Blaney	Cllr Laurence Fallon	Cllr Gerry McLoughlin
Cllr Declan Bree	Cllr Imelda Henry	Cllr Gerry Murray
Cllr Rose Brennan	Cllr Mary Hoade	Cllr Annie May Reape
Cllr Tim Broderick	Cllr Michael Hourigan	Cllr Gerry Reynolds
Cllr Ciaran Brogan	Cllr Gordon Hughes	Cllr Jerome Scanlan
Cllr Catherine Connolly	Cllr John Kennedy	Cllr Tony Ward
Cllr Joe Cooney	Cllr Sean McGowan	Cllr Seamus Weir
Cllr Ger Fahy	Cllr John 'Rocky' McGrath	

**Apologies/Leithscéalta**

Cllr Tom McNamara  
Cllr Michael Mullins  
Cllr Paul Murphy

**Absent/As Láthair**

Cllr Richard Butler  
Cllr John Carroll  
Cllr Tom Connolly  
Cllr Michael Crowe  
Cllr Jimmy Harte  
Cllr John Kelly  
Cllr Frank McBrearty Jr  
Cllr Bernard McGuinness  
Cllr Brian Meaney  
Cllr Malachy Noone  
Cllr Austin Francis O'Malley  
Cllr Kevin Sheahan

**In Attendance/I láthair freisin**

Mr. John Hennessy, Regional Director of Operations (RDO)  
Mr Tony Canavan for LHM, Galway PCCC  
Ms Chris Kane, Regional Co-ordinator for Acute Services  
Mr Damien Mullarkey for Asst National Director, Human Resources  
Mr Chris Rudland, Consumer Affairs Area Manager  
Ms Marie Kennedy, Parliamentary Affairs West  
Ms Shirley Murphy, Parliamentary Affairs West

### **325/32/11 Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2011 were proposed by Councillor Gerry Murray, seconded by Councillor Ger Fahy and adopted.

### **326/32/11 Matters Arising**

#### **Complement of Social Workers in Galway**

**Agreed:** The list/complement of Social Workers in Galway will be forwarded to Cllr Catherine Connolly, as agreed at the February, 2011 Forum.

**Agreed:** Details on Waiting Lists in the HSE West, e.g. Pain Clinics, etc., will issue to all members, as agreed at the February, 2011 Forum.

### **327/32/11 Chairman's Business**

#### **Apologies**

The Chairman noted apologies from Councillors Tom McNamara, Michael Mullins and Paul Murphy.

#### **Regional Health Forum Chairpersons Meeting**

Meeting will take place on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2011. Members were asked to submit any items they wish to include on the Agenda.

#### **Standing Orders**

The Chair advised members that he had met with the Regional Director of Operations regarding a number of items, including RHF West Standing Orders.

Members discussed **Standing Order 25.1** which deals with the number of Questions a member can submit for response.

Some members felt it was imperative to retain the Standing Order to allow submission of up to four Questions per Forum; it was felt that every Member should be asking questions in the current climate and as elected representatives. Members felt that it was the only method available to them to elicit information from the Health Services. It was acknowledged that the RHF West was the most active Forum in terms of volume of questions being asked and responded to. It was also acknowledged that the Industrial Action in 2010 was a contributory factor to the backlog of Forum business being dealt with at today's meeting.

Some members acknowledged the current administrative resource issues in the Health Services. Members felt that some questions were too localised and that up to date/current issues should be discussed at Forum meetings. Some members were happy to reduce the number of questions submitted, only if those submitted were answered.

John Hennessy, RDO West, advised members that the Standing Orders were a matter for the Forum members to make decisions on and that the HSE was in no way attempting to restrict the provision of information, it was actively trying to improve the efficiency of information flow. Mr Hennessy highlighted the impact of the recent HSE Exit Schemes and the redeployment of administrative staff from Corporate Administration to frontline services. Mr Hennessy suggested members consider options including Local informal County / ISA level meetings as a way of dealing with local queries. He advised that the objective is to furnish responses to Forum questions as efficiently as possible. Refining questions might be a way to ensure that members can access readily available data/information, as quickly as possible.

**Agreed:** Cllr Conneely stated that Standing Order 25.1 would remain unchanged.

## Travel and Subsistence

Members were advised that Parliamentary Affairs will present an overview on the Travel and Subsistence in relation to the National Financial Regulations, later in the meeting.

## Next Meetings

The next meeting of the **Committees** will take place in Catherine Street, Limerick, as follows:

- Hospital Committee, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at **11.30am**
- PCCC Committee, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2011 at **2.00pm**

The next meeting of the **Regional Health Forum** will be held on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 at 2.00pm in Room 1, Education Centre, Merlin Park, Galway.

## 328/32/11 Supplementary Questions

The follow matters were raised by members:

### W29Q640 – Cllr Declan Bree

Would it be possible to get an update on beds currently closed?

C Kane responded to Cllr Bree's Supplementary Question.

J Hennessy advised members that Bed Closures / counting of Inpatient Beds was not a good measure of health services. He advised that best practice is to decrease admissions and inpatient activity, and increase day cases. He highlighted that 20 – 30% of clients being admitted to hospitals should only be admitted on a day case basis.

**Agreed:** MPH Capacity details will issue to Cllr Bree.

### W31Q701 – Cllr Declan Bree

Can the HSE clarify what it intends to do with the lands adjoining the Holy Family National School, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo?

**Agreed:** A response will issue to Cllr Bree as soon as possible.

### W29Q673 & W29Q674 – Cllr Gordon Hughes

What is the up to date position regarding the provision of a new community hospital/day care centre in Ballinamore and a new 60 bed community nursing unit in Carrick-on-Shannon. These are continually being referred to as part of the the 2010 – 2016 NDP, however, no progress is evident?

J Hennessy responded to Cllr Hughes Supplementary Question.

**Agreed:** It was agreed to update members mid year re Capital Development progress.

### W29Q638 – Cllr Declan Bree

That the Health Forum be provided with up to date details, including the identity of each property rented by the H.S.E. in Sligo and Leitrim, the purpose for which each property is used by the HSE, the annual rent paid for each property and the rent paid per square ft, the date on which the rental agreement was entered into in respect of each property."

### W31Q708 – Cllr Declan Bree

"That the Forum be provided with a list of properties which the HSE is renting to third parties in Sligo and Leitrim, including the names of the companies/individuals who are renting the properties and the details of the rent received for each property."

Cllr Bree requested responses to the following questions from the 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2010 and 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2011 meetings.

J Hennessy advised Cllr Bree that he had spoken with Mr Joe Molloy, Estates Manager and that this information is available, however, there were some commercially sensitive issues to consider. He advised that there is a programme to review HSE Rent and Property in 2011 and that Mr Molloy has offered to attend the next Regional Health Forum West to update members.

**Agreed:** J Molloy, Estates Manager is to attend the next Forum meeting.

**Agreed:** Written Responses to Cllr Bree's questions will issue immediately.

## **329/32/11 Questions from RHF West 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2011**

Questions and Responses Document is available on: [http://www.hse.ie/eng/About/Who/Regional\\_Health\\_Forum\\_West.html](http://www.hse.ie/eng/About/Who/Regional_Health_Forum_West.html)

The following matters were raised by members:

### **W31Q711 – Cllr Catherine Connolly – Primary Care Teams in Galway City and County**

**Agreed:** T Canavan will provide further details/clarification to Cllr Connolly.

### **W31Q720 – Cllr Tim Broderick for Cllr Michael Mullins – Acute Mental Health Services, County Galway**

**Agreed:** T Canavan will provide details of the budget allocation for the refurbishment of the administration building in Ballinasloe.

### **Follow Up from 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2011 Forum**

**Agreed:** Cllr Ward will receive further details regarding any plans for a PCT at Monksfield, Roscommon as agreed at the 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2011 Forum.

## **330/32/11 Motions**

**W15M124** That a copy of the contract between the HSE and Mount Carmel Medical Group for the proposed development of a private co-located hospital on the grounds of Sligo General Hospital, be made available to the members of the Regional Health Forum.

**Cllr Declan Bree**

**Councillor Bree asked that this Motion be deferred to the next meeting of the Forum**

**W29M194** That this Forum requests the HSE to provide the necessary staff to carry out developmental checks on babies before the age of ten months in Co. Roscommon. At present, only one in every ten children receives their developmental check on time.

**Cllr Tony Ward**

**Proposed by Cllr Tony Ward, seconded by Cllr Ciaran Brogan and adopted.**

**Agreed:** It was agreed that this Motion would be amended to include a request for a Presentation by the HSE to Forum members on all Child Care Services.

**Agreed:** It was agreed that there would be a Presentation at a future Forum meeting on Child Care Services.

**W29M195** Recognising that a commitment was given by the former Minister for Health and a guarantee was given by the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) that women requiring follow up surveillance mammograms would continue to receive the service in Sligo General Hospital after the Breast Cancer Service was transferred to Galway; and further recognizing the fact that no follow up surveillance mammogram service has been available in Sligo General Hospital since the transfer of the Breast Cancer Service to Galway, this Health Forum expresses outrage at the failure of the former Minister and the NCCP to adhere to their commitments and calls on the new Minister, the Government and the National Cancer Control Programme to provide a follow up surveillance mammogram service in Sligo General Hospital as a matter of urgency. (Amended Motion)

**Cllr Declan Bree**

**Proposed by Cllr Declan Bree, seconded by Cllr Gerry Murray and adopted.**

**W29M196** In view of the unanimous and repeated support by the Health Forum in relation to the keeping open of St Francis Nursing Home-that this Forum be given a full report including a written report on what

**Cllr Catherine**

- Connolly** progress has been made in relation to making the required necessary physical changes to the building and what is the full bed capacity and how many beds are currently empty/unoccupied and the waiting list of people waiting to get a bed.  
**This Motion was dropped, to be replaced by W31M213.**
- W29M197** That this forum calls on the Minister for Health Mary Harney to resign due to her incompetence in the way she has managed this department and the way that the people of the North west have had to suffer at her hands.  
**Cllr Frank McBrearty Jnr**  
**As Cllr McBrearty was not in attendance, the Motion was Lost.**
- W29M198** I wish to propose that this Forum calls on the Government to exclude the Health area from any further cuts in the forthcoming Budget. The sick, the elderly and the most vulnerable in our society have to be protected especially in times of recession.  
**Cllr Michael Mullins**  
**As Cllr Mullins was not in attendance, the Motion was Lost.**
- W29M199** In view of the perilous financial position that we face in the HSE west region with having to find savings to the tune of €65 million for the remainder of 2010, I will ask Mr John Hennessy Health Service Executive, to have a critical look at the level of unnecessary administration and bureaucracy within the organisation, and that the budget structures within same be reorganised to give priority to front line services, patients and service users.  
**Cllr Sean McGowan**  
**Proposed by Cllr Sean McGowan, and adopted.**
- W29M200** I will move that HSE West provide adequate funding to maintain the current level of Operating and Care Service at Croom Orthopaedic Hospital.  
**Cllr Jerome Scanlan**  
**Proposed by Jerome Scanlan, seconded by Cllr Rose Brennan and adopted.**
- W29M201** That the HSE West report on what efforts are being made to address the overcrowding crisis at the Mid Western Regional Hospital in Limerick, where patients attending the Accident and Emergency Department are being left for hours awaiting access to a bed including an 85 year old person who was left on a trolley for 30 hours recently.  
**Cllr Joe Cooney**  
**As Cllr Cooney was not in attendance, the Motion was Lost.**
- W29M202** In the event that by the time this motion is moved that questions submitted for written reply during the recent union policy of not responding to elected representatives this forum demands that such question are given a written reply within two weeks.  
**Cllr Brian Meaney**  
**As Cllr Meaney was not in attendance, the Motion was Lost.**
- W30M203** That the Health Forum West provide written responses to all questions lodged and so far not replied to during 2009.  
**Cllr Brian Meaney**  
**As Cllr Meaney was not in attendance, the Motion was Lost.**
- W30M204** That this Forum calls on the Minister for Health & Children to give a commitment that the long promised Endoscopy Unit for Ennis General Hospital will proceed to construction without further delay.  
**Cllr Paul Murphy**  
**As Cllr Murphy was not in attendance, the Motion was Lost.**
- W30M205** In the interest of openness and transparency the Regional Health Forum West calls on the HSE to publish on the HSE website, the list of all questions submitted by members of the Dublin – Mid Leinster Regional Health Forum and the Dublin North East Regional Health Forum, and the response  
**Cllr Declan Bree**

to each of the questions.

**Proposed by Cllr D Bree, seconded by Cllr P Conneely and adopted.**

**Agreed:** It was agreed that the Chair would raise this issue at the next meeting of the 4 Forum Chairpersons.

**Agreed:** RDO agreed to raise the issue with the HSE Management Team.

**W30M206**  
**Cllr J Cooney** That the HSE West Forum in assessing patients for the Fair Deal Nursing Home Support Scheme ensure that when elderly patients are being transferred to Nursing Homes that the Nursing Home allocated has all the necessary facilities to cater for the patients needs.

**As Cllr Cooney was not in attendance, the Motion was Lost.**

**W30M207**  
**Cllr M Mullins** I wish to propose that the HSE reviews its Security arrangements at our Health Centres, and considers the installation of Security cameras as a matter of urgency.  
I make this proposal following the Petrol bombing of the Health Centre in Ballinasloe recently, where we were most fortunate not to have suffered very serious damage.

**As Cllr Mullins was not in attendance, the Motion was Lost.**

**W30M208**  
**Cllr Catherine Connolly** That this Forum calls on the Government for the provision of a one tier health system with equal access for all patients based on need and an end to government support for private hospitals including the provision of tax breaks, etc., and further that this Forum receive a full report both verbal and written on the proposed new building on the site of the University Regional Hospital by way of public/private partnership.

**Proposed by Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Declan Bree and adopted.**

**Agreed:** C Kane will clarify details re numbers of beds at MPH compared with 2006.

**W31M209**  
**Cllr Pdraig Conneely** That in special circumstances Regional Health Forum West meetings may be extended to full day meetings, where there is a backlog of Forum business.

**Proposed by Cllr P Conneely, seconded by Cllr Tim Broderick and adopted.**

**W31M210**  
**Cllr Brian Meaney** That this Forum acknowledges the efforts made by Minister Harney to improve the provision of health care in Ireland.

**As Cllr Meaney was not in attendance, this Motion was Lost.**

**W31M211**  
**Cllr Joe Cooney and Cllr Paul Murphy** That the HSE retain acute medical services at Ennis General Hospital and re-instate the two temporary anaesthetics at the Hospital

**As Cllrs Cooney and Murphy were not in attendance, this Motion was Lost.**

**W31212**  
**Cllr Michael Mullins** I wish to propose the following - That the HSE / Department of Health review as a matter of urgency, the range of Medicines being sold over the counter, in light of concerns being raised in many quarters, about the addictive and dangerous nature of many of them.

**As Cllr Mullins was not in attendance, the Motion was Lost.**

**W31M213**  
**Cllr Catherine Connolly** That in view of previous unanimous motion in relation to the keeping open of St Francis Home in Newcastle Galway that this Forum once again calls for the HSE West to reverse it's decision to cease using this building as a public nursing home and further to clarify the exact position re the current number of patients there, the number of beds vacant and the current waiting list.

**Proposed by Cllr Connolly, seconded by Cllr Pdraig Conneely and adopted.**

**Agreed:** Forum members will be further updated in Autumn - Tony Canavan / RDO

### **331/32/11 Presentation on Travel and Subsistence – National Financial Regulations/**

Ms Marie Kennedy, Parliamentary Affairs West updated members on the current guidelines regarding Travel and Subsistence Claims for Regional Health Forum Members, as per the HSE National Financial Regulations.

Members welcomed the presentation and asked that a previous Motion, proposed by Cllr Brian Meaney regarding the publication of HSE Senior Management Travel and Subsistence Claims, be reviewed.

**Agreed:** Previous Minutes will be reviewed.

### **332/32/11 Any Other Business**

#### **Cllr Gordon Hughes – Meet with Minister for Health and Children**

Cllr Hughes suggested that a meeting of the four Regional Health Forums be held with the new Minister for Health and Children, Dr James Reilly, to discuss the future plans for Health Services in Ireland.

**Agreed:** Cllr P Conneely, Chairperson, will raise this item for discussion at next meeting of Four Forum Chairs, on the 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2011.

#### **Cllr Tim Broderick – Radioactive Iodine Treatment**

Cllr Broderick queried if there was a Radioactive Iodine Treatment unit available in the HSE West, but not in use at present. He advised that a patient is currently travelling to Cork for such treatment, but has been advised that this will no longer be an option.

**Agreed:** This matter will be examined with the Radiology Department and a response will issue to Cllr Broderick.

#### **Cllr Catherine Connolly – Contamination of Carraroe Water Supply**

Cllr Connolly queried the role the HSE had to play in dealing with the effects of the recent Contamination of Carraroe Water Supply, i.e. results of any tests, cost to the HSE, mechanism used, etc.

**Agreed:** This matter will be examined and a response will issue to Cllr Catherine Connolly.

#### **Cllr Ger Fahy – St Joseph’s Psychiatric Hospital, Limerick**

Cllr Fahy requested an updated re St Joseph’s Psychiatric Hospital, Limerick.

J Hennessy advised that the Hospital is scheduled for closure by the end of 2011. An Individual Patient Profile Assessment is being completed to consider long term options for each patient.

**Agreed:** Cllr Fahy will receive further details regarding a timeframe for completion of the Individual Patient Profile assessments.

#### **Cllr Gerry McLoughlin - Questions**

Cllr McLoughlin requested that responses to Forum Questions be regionalised; it was felt that most Questions submitted were of a local nature.

**Agreed:** It was agreed that County Based meetings, between local representatives and HSE Managers, will be arranged two to three times per annum, to allow representatives to deal with more local issues.

#### **Cllr Tony Ward**

Cllr Ward queried the following: When will the vacancy for the replacement **Area Medical Officer for Roscommon**, be filled?

**Agreed:** This matter will be examined and a response will issue to Cllr Ward.

When can the people of Roscommon expect to see a **Primary Care Centre/Team for Monksland**?

**Agreed:** This matter will be examined and a response will issue to Cllr Ward.

While welcoming the meeting of the Four Forums with the Minister for Health and Children; the Roscommon representatives request an update/briefing on future plans for **Roscommon County Hospital**.

**Agreed:** This Briefing will be arranged in the near future.

#### **Standing Orders**

**Agreed:** The Chairperson advised that all members will be circulated a copy of the most up to date Standing Orders and a list of items, for their consideration and for discussion under Chairman's Business at the next Forum Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2011.

#### **Non Attendance at Forum Meetings – Standing Order 8.1**

**Agreed:** Members of the Forum who have not, for a consecutive period of three meetings, attended a meeting of the Forum, shall receive written notification that their Membership of the Forum is being considered by the Forum.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:**

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**Cathaoirleach/Chairman**

Adopted at Regional Health Forum Meeting on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2011