

**Minutes of Regional Health Forum West held on Tuesday, 27th November
2012 at 2.00pm in Room 1, Education Centre,
HSE Offices, Merlin Park, Galway**

Miontuairiscí Cruinnithe Chinn Bhliana an Fhóiraim Réigiúnach Sláinte, a tionóladh ar an Mháirt,
27 Samhain 2012, ag 2.00 .i.n, i Seomra 1 an tIonad Oideachais,
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Páirc Mheirlinne, Gaillimh

Chairperson

Cllr Pádraig Conneely

Members Present

Cllr Liam Blaney	Cllr Mary Hoade	Cllr Tom McNamara
Cllr Rose Brennan	Cllr Michael Hourigan	Cllr Tony Mulqueen
Cllr Tim Broderick	Cllr Gordon Hughes	Cllr Brian Meaney
Cllr Ciaran Brogan	Cllr John Kennedy	Cllr Gerry Murray
Cllr Pat Burke	Cllr Joe Leddin	Cllr Austin Francis O'Malley
Cllr Richard Butler	Cllr Sean MacManus	Cllr Annie May Reape
Cllr John Carroll	Cllr Tomás Mannion	Cllr Damien Riedy
Cllr Catherine Connolly	Cllr Michael McBride	Cllr Kevin Sheahan
Cllr Tom Connolly	Cllr John 'Rocky' McGrath	Cllr Tony Ward
Cllr Ger Fahy	Cllr Sean McGowan	Cllr Seamus Weir
Cllr Laurence Fallon	Cllr Aoiffe McLoughlin	Cllr Gerry Reynolds
Cllr Michael Finnerty	Cllr Paula McNamara	

Apologies

Cllr Frank McBrearty Jr.
Cllr Bernard McGuinness

Absent

Cllr Michael Crowe
Cllr Shaun Cunniffe

In Attendance

John Hennessy, Regional Director of Operations
Tony Canavan, Chief Operations Officer, GUH
Catherine Cunningham, Area Manager Galway/Roscommon PCCC Services
Ann Doherty, CEO, Mid Western Regional Hospital Group
Audrey Lambourn, Area Communications Manager
Bill Maher, CEO, Galway Roscommon Hospitals Group
Caitriona Meehan, Parliamentary Affairs West
Liam Minihan, Asst National Director of Finance
Shirley Murphy, Parliamentary Affairs West
Paudie O'Riordan, Area Operations Manager West, National Ambulance Service
Francis Rogers, Asst National Director, Human Resources
Chris Rudland, General Manager, Consumer Affairs Area Office

399/42/12 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 25th September, 2012 were proposed by Cllr Seamus Weir seconded by Cllr Joe Leddin and adopted.

400/42/12 Matters Arising

Suicide Prevention

Cllr S Weir again proposed that a letter be written to the Junior Minister, Kathleen Lynch, on behalf of the Regional Health Forum members highlighting their concerns on the increase of suicide and the development of mental health services in Ireland. Other members also supported the proposal.

Agreed: There will be a presentation on Suicide Prevention at a future Forum Committee and correspondence will issue to the Junior Minister, as proposed, on behalf of the Forum members.

SDU Funding

Cllr C Connolly requested further clarity on a recent follow up response she received regarding SDU Funding. T Canavan responded to the Councillor's queries.

Owen Riff Nursing Home

Cllr C Connolly requested an update / position on the HSE's role in providing support/managing the privately owned Owen Riff Nursing Home. C Cunningham updated Cllr Connolly and all members.

Primary Care Strategy

Cllr C Connolly requested a written report on the current status of the Primary Care Strategy, as agreed at the last Forum meeting.

The RDO confirmed that the promised report is almost complete.

Agreed: A report will issue to members as soon as possible.

Agreed: The HSE will arrange for a presentation to members at a future Forum Committee, on the Primary Care Strategy.

Bed Numbers – GUH & MPH

Cllr C Connolly requested the most up to date bed numbers for Galway University Hospital and Merlin Park Hospital.

Agreed: T Canavan will provide up to date bed numbers directly to Cllr Connolly.

Patients discharges, MWRH

Cllr K Sheahan queried if rumours were true that discharges recently took place and some admissions were refused, in preparation for the Minister's recent visit to the Mid Western Regional Hospital.

A Doherty assured members that this was not the case.

Agreed: Members were advised to forward details on any such incidents/cases to A Doherty for examination.

Ambulance Service - Donegal

The Chairman agreed to allow Cllr Liam Blaney raise an issue in relation to a recent incident in Donegal regarding the Ambulance Service. Cllr Blaney advised that when an ambulance was called for a sick child, there was one crew on a call and one member of the second crew was absent due to sick leave. The remaining one man crew/paramedic attended the call and went to the home of the sick child, in the meantime calling for backup. The Paramedic decided that the child required attendance at ED and asked the child's mother to drive to the hospital, while he treated the child in the back of the car.

Cllr Blaney felt this was totally unacceptable and queried why only one crew was available, he asked if it was due to cut-backs?

P O’Riordan responded to the queries raised by Cllr Blaney and advised that the incident was not related to cutbacks. He explained that at short notice one crew member fell ill and that advanced paramedics frequently respond to emergencies using a response car rather than an ambulance. Unfortunately, at the time of this incident there were a number of incidents together, including a road traffic accident. The advanced paramedic who attended the child made the decision at the time to respond to the call out and call for a back up ambulance. He then made the decision to transfer the child to ED rather than wait for the ambulance. As per normal practice the matter is being reviewed.

The Chairman advised Cllr Blaney to raise any further queries on this matter as formal Forum Questions at the next meeting.

401/42/12 Chairman’s Business

Apologies

The Chairperson acknowledged apologies from Cllrs Frank McBrearty Jr and Bernard McGuinness.

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all present including a member of the public who was in attendance as an observer.

Forum Questions

The Chairman and C Rudland reminded members that up to four Forum Questions can be submitted for response and members should be mindful of not submitting several questions within a question. C Rudland confirmed that related questions within a question are not an issue.

Motions

An amended list of motions was circulated at the meeting, as a motion had been withdrawn before the meeting.

Draft Schedule of Meetings 2013

Members confirmed and agreed to the schedule of meetings set out for 2013.

List of Home Help Contacts

As agreed at the recent Minister for Health’s meeting with Forum Members, a list of Home Help contacts in HSE West was circulated to members.

Presentations for next Forum Committee

Suggested presentations for the next Forum Committee are:

1. Suicide Prevention
2. Primary Care Strategy

402/42/12 Savita Halappanavar RIP

The Chairman offered his condolences to Mr Halappanavar on the death of his wife Savita at UHG.

Mr Bill Maher, Group CEO, Galway and Roscommon University Hospitals Group and Mr Tony Canavan, Chief Operating Office for the Group, addressed Regional Health Forum members on the matter and also extended their sympathies to Mr Halappanavar, his family and friends. They provided an outline, in so far as was possible, of what University Hospital Galway has been doing in response to the tragedy.

Members thanked B Maher and T Canavan for the clarity and also each expressed their sympathies to all concerned.

- Members requested clarification on the various reviews/investigations taking place, the timeframes for each and the composition of the review/investigation team(s)?
- Some members stated their support for an independent / public enquiry. Cllr B Meaney proposed a motion calling on the Government to accede to the request to hold a public enquiry on this matter. Some members felt that Forum Members should hold their counsel until the investigation reports are presented and that the investigation should be given due process before proposing any Motions.

Members discussed the matter and voted against the proposal as follows:-

Against: 24

For: 3

Abstain: 1

Absent: 12

The RDO, on behalf of all HSE staff present, joined with members to extend his condolences to Mr Halappanavar and his family and friends.

403/42/12 Questions

Questions and Responses Document is available on; http://www.hse.ie/eng/About/Who/Regional_Health_Forum_West

Follow Ups from Supplementary Questions include:

W42Q1018 – Cllr Brian Meaney - Sharing of medical data / development of a data commons

Agreed: Cllr Meaney noted that his question has been referred to the HSE's Health Intelligence Unit and is happy to await any response/feedback.

W42Q1019 – Cllr Brian Meaney - Fluoridation of Water

Agreed: Cllr Meaney noted that his question has been referred to the HSE's Asst. National Director of Environmental Health and Emergency Management and is happy to await any response/feedback.

W42Q1020 – Cllr Brian Meaney - Job Description, Directorates in the Mid West

Agreed: A Doherty will provide copy of the full Job Descriptions of the four clinical directors referred to in her response, to Cllr Meaney.

W42Q1021 – Cllr Brian Meaney - Current Financial Position in HSE West

Agreed: A Doherty will provide an update to Cllr Meaney, on the current financial position in the HSE Mid West as soon as possible.

W42Q1022 – Cllr Joe Leddin - Treatment Centres, Limerick

Further to the response received, Cllr Leddin queried if there was overlap in the provision of services in the centres mentioned in the response?

Agreed: B Gloster will provide further details on the nature and type of work done in the treatment centres, in particular, Limerick Youth Service and Saoirse Treatment Centre.

W42Q1023 – Cllr Joe Leddin - Breakdown of over run, Mid West

Further to the response received, Cllr Leddin requested details on the 'addresses of ED attendances at MWRH', i.e. where are those attending ED coming from / living?

Agreed: A Doherty will forward details to Cllr Leddin.

W42Q1025 – Cllr Joe Leddin - Reconsider opening times of A&E at Nenagh and Ennis

Further to the response received, Cllr Leddin requested details on the schedule/plan for construction of the new ED at MWRH?

Agreed: A Doherty will forward these details to Cllr Leddin.

W42Q1026 – Cllr Sean MacManus - Mammography at Sligo Regional Hospital

Agreed: D McCallion will clarify for Cllr MacManus if the Mammography equipment/machinery at Sligo Regional Hospital will require replacement/maintenance/updating?

W42Q1027 – Cllr Mary Hoade - MRI Scans

Agreed: GRUHG will examine the details on the specific case raised, on receipt of further details from Cllr Hoade.

W42Q1029 – Cllr Mary Hoade – Provision of Insulin Pumps

Agreed: C Cunningham will examine the details of the specific case raised by Cllr Hoade regarding the supply of a replacement Insulin Pump.

W42Q1031 – Cllr Tony Ward - Rental costs in County Roscommon

Agreed: C Cunningham will provide further clarification in writing to Cllr Ward's question.

W42Q1032 – Cllr Tony Ward - OT Waiting Times, County Roscommon

Agreed: Further to the response issued, C Cunningham will circulate details on the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Occupational Therapy *Waiting List* to Cllr Ward.

W42Q1034 – Cllr Liam Blaney, Rheumatoid Arthritis Treatment at LGH

Agreed: RDO will examine the reinstatement of Rheumatoid Arthritis treatment services at LGH and provide details on the schedule and timeframe for same

W42Q1035 – Cllr Tom McNamara - Opening Date for 25 Bed Unit at EGH

Cllr McNamara queried if it is the case that patients who are transported to MWRH from EGH for further investigation must have a relative/companion travelling with them, i.e. the EMT will not travel if there is no support/family member to accompany the patient?

Agreed: A Doherty agreed to follow up on this matter and revert to Cllr McNamara.

W42Q1040 – Cllr Catherine Connolly – Dental Services to Children

Agreed: It was agreed that a Principal Dental Surgeon will attend the next Galway Roscommon PCCC local briefing to public representatives.

W42Q1041 – Cllr Catherine Connolly, Buildings rented/leased in Galway City and County

Agreed: Joe Molloy will be requested to provide further information as to the nature of the leases listed, i.e. the terms of the leases, e.g. are there penalty clauses in relation to Seamus Quirke Road office leases?

W42Q1042 – Cllr Sean McGowan – Mental Health Facility, Mohill

The Cllr further queried if there are plans for a PCT in Mohill?

Agreed: A response to the Councillor's query will issue from D McCallion.

W42Q1044 – Cllr Sean McGowan – Primary Care Centre, Dromod

The Cllr urged the HSE to ensure that all efforts are made to provide a GP Service in Dromod.

Agreed: The RDO agreed to forward the Cllr's concerns to D McCallion, Area Manager, Sligo/Leitrim/W Cavan.

W42Q1045 - Cllr Sean McGowan – Taxi Fares

The Cllr suggested the HSE look at reducing the taxi bill by providing its own transport (e.g. minibus service) for staff.

Agreed: The RDO agreed to consider this matter further.

W42Q1051 – C1054, Cllr John Rocky McGrath – Children First

Agreed: Written responses, to these late questions, will issue as soon as possible.

W42Q1055 – Cllr John Kennedy, Community Hospital of the Assumption, Thurles

Agreed: It was agreed that the Cllr would be kept informed on developments re services at the Hospital of the Assumption.

404/42/12 Motions

Order of Business	NUMBER	MOTION	Status
1	W42M258	That the HSE give consideration to establishing a data commons	<i>Withdrawn by Cllr Brian Meaney</i>
2	W42M259	I am calling on the Government and the Minister for Health, Dr James Reilly TD and the HSE not to cut funding for Home Help hours and Home Care Packages for older people who wish to continue to live in their homes.	<i>Proposed by Cllr Tony Ward, seconded by Cllr Ciaran Brogan and adopted.</i>
Agreed: The motion will be forwarded by the HSE to the Minister for Health on behalf of RHF West.			
3	W42M260	That this Health Forum calls on the Government and in particular the Ministers for Health and the Gaeltacht to ensure that the air services to the Aran Islands continue and that the services not be diminished in any way by proposed government cutbacks given the vital nature of the services to the people of the Aran Islands from so many different perspectives including Health, Education, Employment and Tourism.	<i>Proposed by Cllr Catherine Connolly, seconded by Cllr Mary Hoade and adopted.</i>
Agreed: The motion will be forwarded by the HSE to the relevant Ministers on behalf of the RHF West.			

405/42/12 Financial Briefing

The RDO and L Minihan briefed members on the HSE West finances, including service plan priorities, control measures, absenteeism, WTEs, activity and priorities. They advised that HSE West is making progress but there are challenges with hospital overruns. The Minister has indicated that funding for hospital groups will change in the future and funding for care groups will become more targeted to the client.

406/42/12 Any Other Business

Art Assist

Cllr T Broderick raised a number of queries in relation to the provision of Art Assist pumps in the HSE.

The RDO advised that the HSE must always ensure that the equipment it funds provides the maximum benefit to patients, this is particularly important given the financial challenges that the HSE and indeed the country currently face.

Agreed: The RDO will assess the efficacy of the Art Assist devices and revert to Cllr T Broderick in due course.

407/42/12 Next Meeting of the Regional Health Forum West

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on Tuesday, 22nd January 2013, commencing at 1.00pm in Room 1, Education Centre, Merlin Park, Galway.

The next Forum Committee meeting will take place on 26th February, 2012 in Limerick.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathairleach/Chairman

AMENDED TO: Adopted at Regional Health Forum Meeting on Friday 28th February 2013