

**Minutes of Meeting of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the
Regional Health Forum, West
held on Tuesday 26th June, 2007
at 2.00pm in Room 1, Education Centre,
Health Service Executive West, Merlin Park, Galway**
**Miontuairiscí cruinnithe an Fhóiraim Réigiúnach Sláinte, an tIarthar a tionóladh ar
an Mháirt 26 Meitheamh i Seomra 1,
an tIonad Oideachais, Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte,
Páirc Mheirlinne, Gaillimh**

Chairperson/Cathaoirleach

Councillor Declan Bree who presided.

Members Present/Comhaltaí i Láthair

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Councillor David Alcorn | Councillor Joe Hennessy (Dr.) | Councillor Tim Quinn |
| Councillor Patsy Barry | Councillor John Hogan | Councillor J.J. Reid |
| Councillor Ciaran Brogan | Councillor Charlie Hopkins | Councillor Gerry Reynolds |
| Councillor Richard Butler | Councillor Michael Hourigan | Councillor Denis Ryan |
| Councillor Bill Chambers | Councillor Colm Keaveney | Councillor Noreen Ryan |
| Councillor Aidan Colleary | Councillor Sean McEniff | Councillor Eddie Staunton |
| Councillor Josie Conneely | Councillor Sean McGowan | Councillor Brigid Teefy |
| Councillor Padraig Conneely | Councillor Bernard McGuinness | Councillor Lilly Wallace |
| Councillor Catherine Connolly | Councillor Tomás Mannion | Councillor Kieran Walsh |
| Councillor Joe Cooney | Councillor Brian Meaney | Councillor Tony Ward |
| Councillor Pat Daly | Councillor Eugene Murphy | Councillor Bridie Willers |
| Councillor Leonard Enright | Councillor Patsy O'Brien | |

Apologies/Leithscéalta

Councillor Fidelma Healy Eames
Councillor Donal Lyons

Absent/As Láthair

Councillor Aodh Flynn
Councillor Austin Francis O'Malley

In Attendance/I láthair freisin

Dr. Seán Conroy, Director, Regional Health Office, HSE West
Ms. Jacky Jones, Functional Manager Health Promotion, HSE West
Mr. Frank Murphy, Acting Assistant National Director, PCCC, HSE West
Mr. John Doyle, Acting Hospital Network Manager, HSE West
Ms. Caitríona Meehan, Area Communications Manager, HSE West
Mr. Pat Daly, Chief Ambulance Officer, HSE West
Mr. Seamus Gallagher, Senior Administrative Officer, Regional Health Office, HSE West
Ms. Shirley Murphy, Acting Section Officer, Regional Health Office, HSE West

**105/10/07 Iarratais chun Glacadh le Toscaireacht/
Applications to receive Deputations**

Councillor Declan Bree, Chairman, asked the Forum if they were in a position to hear a deputation from the *Development Co-ordination Disorder, (DCD) Parents' Support Group Galway*.
Councillor Catherine Connolly outlined for the Forum the urgency involved. The Forum agreed as per their Standing Orders that deputations would be heard by Committees of the Forum only. It was agreed that the deputation would be invited to present at the next PCCC Committee meeting.

106/10/07 Standing Orders/Ordaithe Seasta

Councillor Declan Bree, Chairman, stated that as a result of an agreement reached at the last meeting, he had carried out a review of Standing Orders in light of submissions and feedback from members. The changes he proposed are as follows:

Article 22: Order of Business

It is proposed that the Order of Business be amended by giving higher priority to:

- C. "Report (if any) by Chairpersons of Committees"
- D. "Questions"
- E. "Notice of Motions"

Therefore, the amended Article 22 will read as follows:

***Article 22.1:** The Order of Business at the meeting of a Forum, other than the Annual General Meeting, shall be as follows:*

- A. Adoption of Minutes at the previous meeting.*
- B. Business specifically submitted by the Chair.*
- C. Reports (if any) by the Chairpersons of Committees*
- D. Questions*
- E. Notice of Motions*
- F. Presentation (if any)*
- G. Health Services Executive Update by Executive*
- H. Deputations (if any)*
- I. Other Business set forth in notice paper.*

Article 23: Motions

It is proposed to amend Article 23: "To reduce the number of Motions that a member may submit for each meeting".

Therefore, the amended Article 23.3 will read as follows:

***Article 23.3:** "No member shall be permitted to have more than two Motions on the Agenda for any one meeting with the exception of Motions adjourned from the previous meeting".*

Article 25: Questions

It is proposed to amend Article 25 to allow additional Questions to be submitted by members.

Amended Article 25.1 to read

***Article 25.1:** Four written Questions per member may be dealt with at any one meeting of the Forum.*

The Chairman proposed the changes to Articles 22, 23 and 25 of the Standing Orders. These were seconded by Councillor Tony Ward and adopted.

107/10/07 Chairman's Business/Gnóthai an Chathaoirligh

Councillor Declan Bree, Chairman, stated that he wished to thank each and every member of the Forum for their assistance, co-operation and goodwill in the period since he had been elected Chairman of the Forum. He referred to the fact that the Regional Health Forums were established in order to provide local representatives with a role in the formation of policies and the delivery of health services. However, he was concerned that the recommendations and issues raised by the Health Forum were not being taken seriously by the Health Services Executive and that no response had been received to any of the Motions or recommendations passed by the Forum.

He referred to the two-tier health system, which he felt was unacceptable in modern Ireland. He felt that given the level of wealth in Ireland, we were in a position to afford the highest quality of health care for all our people.

Many members of the Forum complimented the outgoing Chairman on his fairness and efficiency in chairing of the various meetings since he took over as Chairman of the Forum.

108/10/07 Election of Chairman/Toghachán an Chathaoirligh

As this is the Annual General Meeting of the Forum, the Chairman sought nominations for position of Chair. Councillor Joe Hennessy was proposed by Councillor John Hogan and seconded by Councillor Sean McEniff.

Councillor Charlie Hopkins was proposed by Councillor Padraig Conneely and seconded by Councillor Tony Ward. An election then ensued.

The following members voted for Councillor Joe (Dr.) Hennessy:

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| David Alcorn | Leonard Enright | Brian Meaney |
| Patsy Barry | Joe Hennessy | Eugene Murphy |
| Declan Bree | John Hogan | Tim Quinn |
| Ciaran Brogan | Colm Keaveney | Brigid Teefy |
| Bill Chambers | Sean McEniff | Lily Wallace |
| Aidan Colleary | Sean McGowan | Kieran Walsh |
| Catherine Connolly | Tomas Mannion | Josie Conneely |
| Pat Daly | | Total of 22 votes |

The following were the votes for Councillor Charlie Hopkins:

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Richard Butler | Michael Hourigan | Eddie Staunton |
| Padraig Conneely | Bernard McGuinness | Tony Ward |
| Joe Cooney | J.J. Reid | Bridie Willers |
| Charlie Hopkins | Denis Ryan | Total of 11 votes |

Councillor Joe Hennessy was then deemed elected and took over as Chairman.

Councillor Hennessy thanked all those who voted for him and thanked the outgoing Chairman for his efficiency throughout the year. Councillor Charlie Hopkins thanked the members who proposed and voted for him and wished Councillor Hennessy well.

109/10/07 Election of Vice-Chairperson/Toghachán an Leas Cathaoirligh

The newly elected Chair then sought nominations for Vice-Chair. Councillor Ciaran Brogan was proposed by Councillor David Alcorn and seconded by Councillor Sean McEniff.

Councillor Bridie Willers was proposed by Councillor Eddie Staunton and seconded by Councillor Bernard McGuinness.

The vote then ensued.

The following members voted for Councillor Ciaran Brogan:

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| David Alcorn | Pat Daly | Tomas Mannion |
| Patsy Barry | Leonard Enright | Eugene Murphy |
| Declan Bree | Joe Hennessy | Tim Quinn |
| Ciaran Brogan | John Hogan | Brigid Teefy |
| Bill Chambers | Colm Keaveney | Kieran Walsh |
| Aidan Colleary | Sean McEniff | Josie Conneely |
| Catherine Connolly | Sean McGowan | Tomas Mannion |
| David Alcorn | Pat Daly | Total of 20 votes |

The votes for Councillor Bridie Willers are as follows:

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Richard Butler | Bernard McGuinness | Eddie Staunton |
| Padraig Conneely | Brian Meaney | Lily Wallace |
| Joe Cooney | Patsy O'Brien | Tony Ward |
| Charlie Hopkins | J.J. Reid | Bridie Willers |
| Michael Hourigan | Denis Ryan | Total of 14 votes |

Councillor Ciaran Brogan was therefore elected as Vice-Chairperson and he thanked members who proposed and voted for him.

Councillor Bridie Willers thanked those who proposed and voted for her and wished both Councillor Hennessy and Councillor Brogan well in their new positions.

Councillor Joe Hennessy thanked all the members who proposed and voted for him. He complimented the previous Chairmen, Councillor Bree and Councillor Colleary, for the efficient manner in which they chaired the meetings. He felt that his priority was to represent the frontline staff of the Health Services who provide services on a daily basis. He felt that views and representations made by the Forum needed to be listened to by the Health Services Executive. He also referred to the importance of smaller hospitals in relation to the service they provide to local communities.

Dr. Sean Conroy, Director, on his own behalf and his staff, complimented the outgoing Chairman on his efficiency and kind words and looked forward to working closely with the new Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

110/10/07 Committees/Coistí

Dr. Sean Conroy referred to the fact that in accordance with the Statutory Instrument setting up the Regional Health Forums and the Standing Orders as agreed by the members, the Forum had set up two Committees, i.e. the Hospital and Primary, Community & Continuing Care and Population Health Committee. It was agreed that if members wished to change from their present Committee, they could do so by informing the Director.

111/10/07 Meeting with Local Health Managers & Hospital Network Managers/Cruinniú Gréasáin na mBainisteoirí Áitiúla Sláinte agus Ospidéal

It was proposed by Councillor Bernard McGuinness and seconded by Councillor Ciaran Brogan that Forum members would meet regularly with the Local Health Managers and Hospital Network Managers in their respective Counties in order to establish the present position regarding services and clarify any issues.

112/10/07 Minutes/Miontuairiscí

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 29th May, 2007 were proposed by Councillor Joe Cooney and seconded by Councillor Tony Ward and adopted.

113/10/07 Matters Arising/Nithe ag éirí

A discussion took place regarding matters arising. It was agreed that matters arising should deal with corrections to minutes and no more than one intervention, per issue, by a member. This was subject to the overall discretion of the Chairman of the meeting.

114/10/07 HSE Update/An scéal is déanaí ón bhFSS

Dr. Sean Conroy, Director, referred to the document which had been circulated with the Minutes in which it outlined details of various initiatives which were taking place in the HSE West area, together with information on National, Regional and Local Services.

Full details of the Update are as follows:

Population Health W10 U105 – 108

- U105 HSE West launches poster campaign encouraging Clare primary schools to promote child health through healthy eating
- Can you Cook It?
- Health Promoting Hospitals
- Workplace Health Promotion

Primary Continuing and Community Care W10 U109 – 111

- Water precautions - Cryptosporidium
- Staff Members from Galway PCCC volunteering at the Galway World Cup Fun Weekend
- North Tipperary/East Limerick Local Health Area

Hospitals W10 U112

- **Galway University Hospitals** - Clinical Research Facility, Cardiac Surgery, Cardiovascular Service, Psychiatry, Clinical Directorates, Car Parking, Rehabilitation Unit, New Consultant Appointment, Health Links, Long stay patients, Units 5 & 6, Direct Admissions MPUH

National W10 U113 - 116

- New HSE FACTFILE Website
- Medical Card Services and Community Schemes explained in new HSE guide
- Shifting the emphasis to community services is the route to a sustainable health service
- Open Day, June 28th, Galway and Mayo, Health Repayment Scheme

The following issues were raised:

Unit 5&6 MPRH

Councillor Pádraig Conneely referred to the considerable waiting list for admission to Units 5 & 6, Merlin Park, Galway and queried if it was proposed to build an extension. It was agreed that the matter would be clarified by the Assistant National Director, PCCC, HSE West.

Nursing Homes Health Repayments Scheme

Councillor Pádraig Conneely sought clarification as to why a large number of cases were not settled. It was agreed that the up-to-date position regarding settlements in each of the Counties in the HSE areas and clarification regarding delays would be established from the Repayments Group and forwarded to members of the Forum.

Renal Strategy

Councillor Conneely referred to a report which had appeared in the Medical Supplement of the Irish Times today outlining major difficulties with overcrowding the Haemodialysis Units in a number of hospitals including Merlin Park and Limerick. He was concerned regarding the safety and quality of services being provided to such patients. It was agreed that the Hospital Network Managers would arrange for a response and a report be forwarded to members.

St. Francis Home, Galway

Councillor Catherine Connolly requested the up-to-date position regarding the re-opening of beds at St. Francis Home and that this update would be provided on a regular basis.

24-Hour Ambulance Service

Councillor Joe Cooney requested the up-to-date position regarding the provision of 24 Hour Ambulance Service in East Clare. Pat Daly, Chief Ambulance Officer, stated that a Spatial Analysis study was being carried out in the Mid-Western Area and that it was expected that the report would be available at the end of the year. An extension of the service could not be carried out until the outcome of this report is available.

115/10/07 Questions/Ceisteanna

W10Q91

Cllr. Brian Meaney

"I request an up to date account on all ambulance response times on call on an incident by incident basis detailing location of call and ambulance station involved in the region involving Co. Clare over the last two years".

HSE Reply/Freagra an FSS

County Clare is serviced by Ambulance Stations in Ennis, Ennistymon, Kilrush and Scariff which cover a geographical area of 3,438 square kilometres and a population of 104,000 approximately. Part of County Clare is serviced by Limerick Ambulance Station.

Activity Levels

Emergency calls from 1st May 2005 to 1st May 2007.

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Ennis | 4,175 |
| Kilrush | 841 |
| Scariff | 807 |
| Ennistymon | 688 |
| Total | 6,511 |

Station Emergency Response Times and number of Calls January to April 2007

Ennis Average Response Times

| | Response Time | Activity Level |
|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| % 8 mins | 26% | 167 |
| %14 mins | 55.6% | 358 |
| %19 mins | 66.62% | 430 |
| % 26 mins | 80.2% | 519 |

Ennistymon Average Response Times

| | Response Time | Activity Level |
|----------|---------------|----------------|
| % 8 mins | 10.55% | 9 |
| %14 mins | 28 % | 27 |
| %19 mins | 37.18% | 36 |
| %26 mins | 61.75% | 57 |

Kilrush Average Response Times

| | Response Time | Activity Level |
|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| % 8 mins | 13.65% | 16 |
| %14 mins | 30.65% | 35 |
| %19 mins | 55.02% | 63 |
| % 26 mins | 70.23% | 81 |

Scariff Average Response Times

| | Response Time | Activity Level |
|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| % 8 mins | 16.9% | 20 |
| %14 mins | 42.37% | 51 |
| %19 mins | 59.55% | 71 |
| % 26 mins | 74.37% | 87 |

W10Q92

Cllr. Brian Meaney

"Without seeking to breach the Standing Orders of this Forum I request an up date on assessment and treatment of MS within the functional are of this forum and in the country. Are the full range of medical options given international best practice available and what options are available under the NTPF?"

HSE Reply/Freagra an FSS

The prevalence of Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in Ireland is difficult to determine, as there is no MS register, and the key information from various sources needs to be collated to give an estimate of prevalence. MS Ireland estimates there are approximately 7,000 people with MS in this country.

Care for people with multiple sclerosis is under the direction of a consultant neurologist. For patients in the West of Ireland, there have long been problems with delays in access to neurology services. The Comhairle na nOspidéal Report on Neurology and Clinical Neurophysiology Services (April 2003) detailed a plan for the development of neurology and neurophysiology services and consultant staffing in Ireland over the next decade. The report made specific recommendations based on an interim target of 1 consultant neurologist per 150,000 population, which it hoped could be realised over the following decade. The ratio in 2003 was 1/ 280,000 population approximately.

NEUROLOGY SERVICE DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

In 2006/7 the HSE has approved an additional 7 posts of consultant neurologist.

In 2006 the HSE received funding of €3m which was allocated to the establishment of three new consultant led neurology units in the Mid-west, North West and South East, areas where at the time there were no public consultant neurologists. The funding also included a provision of supporting staff to work along side the consultant neurologists. The supporting teams, which includes clinical nurse specialists and allied health professionals, are to be employed, working across traditional primary / secondary care boundaries. The new teams will have an immediate impact on reducing the current waiting list experienced by those living in these areas. In the absence of local services people from these regions had to travel for appointments to Dublin, Galway or Cork. Interviews have been held for the Sligo and Limerick posts.

In 2007 the HSE has been allocated an additional €4m to enable it to continue to implement the Comhairle report on neurology. The neurology funding for 2007 will facilitate the appointment of 3 additional consultant neurologists. These posts will be in Beaumont, Cork and Galway.

Nationally there are currently **24 approved posts of consultant neurologist in Ireland**, an increase of 10 posts since the publication of this report, giving a ratio of one consultant neurologist per 180,000 population (2006 preliminary census figures).

Table 1. Approved Posts of Consultant Neurologist as at 23/04/07.

| HOSPITAL / HSE REGION | FILLED | APPROVED VACANT POSTS | CONSULTANT ESTABLISHMENT |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| St. Vincent's | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| St. James's Hospital | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Tallaght Hospital | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Dublin Mid Leinster Total | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Beaumont Hospital | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Mater | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| OLOH Drogheda | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Dublin North East | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| Galway Regional Hospitals | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Sligo General Hospital | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Limerick | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| West | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| CUH | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Mercy | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Waterford Regional Hospital | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| South | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Overall Total | 17 | 7 | 24 |

PLANNING FOR FUTURE SERVICES:

The HSE is currently conducting a national neurology needs assessment. This work is assessing the current configuration and provision of services. It is also examining future requirements for the service as the population ages and as new treatments develop and become available. It will propose how different aspects of the service can be well structured and integrated to the benefit of patients and their families. The work is examining medical neurology, neurophysiology and support services including Primary Care services.

A Steering Group has been established and this has multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral representation. It has already identified key priorities for 2007, which reflect the recommendations of the 2003 Comhairle report on Neurology and Neurophysiology. The Steering group has three specific subgroups which are examining: disease prevalence and trends so that services can be aligned to need, service configuration and potential for integration of different parts of the service to benefit patients, the value of technology in neurology, R&D, training etc. The group is due to finish its work in the near future.

The steering group has also commissioned a specific piece of work on the prevalence of multiple sclerosis in Ireland, which is due for publication in the near future. In addition, much work has recently been undertaken by the HSE (in the context of neurology needs assessment) and by the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics onto the impact of the new drug Tysabri on people with MS. Tysabri is currently being prescribed to MS patients.

As MS is a long-term illness with mental and physical complications, it has not come within the scope of the NTPF.

W10Q93

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan

"When is it expected that construction will start on the new A&E Unit in Letterkenny?"

HSE Reply/Freagra an FSS

It is expected that the construction will have commenced by mid 2008.

W10Q94

Cllr. Ciaran Brogan

"When will construction start on extra car parking spaces in Letterkenny General Hospital?"

HSE Reply/Freagra an FSS

It is expected to be able to start construction after the Planning Permission and tendering process by November 2008.

W10Q95

Cllr. Kieran Walsh

"Did the HSE provide funding for refreshments for a hospital staff function at a premises in Sligo, on Friday 1st of June 2007?"

HSE Reply/Freagra an FSS

The HSE did not provide funding for refreshments for a hospital staff function at a premises in Sligo on Friday, 1st June, 2007.

W10Q96

Cllr. Declan Bree

"That a list of the FOI Requests submitted to the HSE in Sligo/Leitrim in the period 1st January 2005 to 1st March, 2007, including an outline of the information sought, be provided to the Forum."

HSE Reply/Freagra an FSS

In the period 1st January, 2005, to 18th June, 2007, the HSE received 726 FOI requests in respect of Sligo General Hospital, Community Services Sligo/Leitrim and the HR Function in Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim. It should be noted that the HR function dealt with requests from staff and members of the public from the three counties of the North West Area and beyond. Of the 726 requests, 700 were

in respect of requesters' personal records and further detail cannot be provided, due to our obligation of confidentiality. Breakdown per area on the attached sheet (*Appendix 1*).

In addition, the HSE received a number of requests nationally which were then referred to the NWA to be dealt with in respect of the former NWHB area. The details of these requests are attached for the years 2005, 2006 & 2007 to date (*Appendix 2*).

Details of the 26 non-personal requests are attached, although the identity of the requesters has been withheld.

W10Q97

Cllr. Declan Bree

"Has the HSE agreed to provide the use of the Day Surgical Unit and associated facilities at Sligo General Hospital on a temporary basis to a private for-profit hospital: can details of the arrangement between the HSE and the private hospital, including period of use, rental, etc., be provided to the Forum; what role if any will Sligo General Hospital staff have in facilitating the private operation; where will public patients who require treatment at the Day Surgical Unit receive such treatment in the period in which the unit is being used by the private hospital; is it now the policy of the HSE to allow private operators to use facilities in our public hospitals."

HSE Reply/Freagra an FSS

The HSE has been in discussions with Mount Carmel Medical (MCM) in relation to the use of the Hospital's Day Surgery facility in order to accommodate MCM who are having a theatre upgrade carried out.

The proposed arrangement is that there will be a number of sessions provided to Mount Carmel Medical, approximately 8 in total over a two month period, August and September.

This arrangement is a commercial agreement and Mount Carmel Medical will pay for the use of Day Surgical Unit when it would otherwise have been unoccupied. No public patients will be displaced or inconvenienced and the hospital will benefit from the rental fee. The Hospital has a number of free theatre slots which would not be used during the course of the summer months due to staff leave etc. and therefore no public patients are impacted in terms of the potential use of the Day Surgery Unit by Mount Carmel Medical.

It is proposed that Mount Carmel Medical will have the use of facilities, however, they will provide staffing, equipment, insurance and will bear all associated costs.

W10Q98

Cllr. Catherine Connolly

"That this Forum receive a full report and explanation as to how a person remains an inpatient in the Psychiatric Department in University College Hospital Galway when the person has been ready for discharge for quite some time and furthermore clarification on how many other patients are in this position and for how long".

HSE Reply/Freagra an FSS

It is not the policy of the Health Service Executive to comment on any particular case and therefore the information provided below is done so on a general basis and does not refer to any specific case.

From time to time we are unable to access suitable services or accommodation to facilitate the discharge of a person when the acute episode of their illness has been relieved. Sometimes, this may occur due to lack of resources, staff or buildings or due the referral agency being unable to take the individual.

W10Q99

Cllr. Catherine Connolly

"That this Forum receive a comprehensive report and explanation as to how a building situated next to Tearmann Eanna remains unoccupied and unused since coming into ownership of the HSE West approximately two years ago, the plans for this building and the costs to date of the ongoing maintenance and refurbishment of this empty building".

HSE Reply/Freagra an FSS

The community facility at Tearmann Eanna, Inverin was developed in partnership with a local voluntary group, to provide accommodation for five people currently resident in Unit 9A, Merlin Park Hospital, Galway.

Business Cases outlining two options have been proposed and submitted for the opening of the service:

- One option was seeking approval for the employment of 14 staff and funding to permit the HSE West to operate the service.
- The second option sought funding to permit the employment of the staff by another agency.

A response to these proposals has not yet been received and accordingly, the HSE is currently not in a position to open this facility.

Councillor Connolly stated that she was unhappy with the response she had received to both Questions and the matter has been taken up with Mr. Seamus McNulty, PCCC.

116/10/07 Notices of Motion/Fógraí Rúin

W6M45 “Recognising that the public service employment cap introduced in 2002 has limited the ability of the public health sector to respond to demand, and further recognising that since the introduction of the cap, private health projects subsidised by the state have grown, this Health Forum calls on the HSE and the Government to immediately lift the public service cap so as to ensure that health staffing in our hospitals and at primary care level can grow to meet public needs”.

Proposed by Councillor Declan Bree and seconded by Councillor Catherine Connolly and adopted.

W7M52 “The Hospital Committee recommends to the Regional Health Forum, West that the necessary resources will be provided for the provision of a CAT Scanner for Ennis and Nenagh Hospitals”.

Proposed by the Hospital Committee. It was pointed out that the provision of CAT Scanners for both Hospitals was progressing well. The Motion was therefore withdrawn.

W7M55 “This Forum voices concern over the ongoing delay of the upgrade at Ennis General Hospital and seek assurances that the review of acute services in the Mid West will not affect the status of Ennis General Hospital”.

Proposed by Councillor Brian Meaney and seconded by Councillor Joe Cooney and adopted.

W7M64 “That this Forum requests that the HSE indicate a time frame when a new Health Centre would be built in Gort to serve the needs of the people of South Galway”.

Proposed by Councillor Bridie Willers and seconded by Councillor Charlie Hopkins and adopted.

W7M65 “That the HSE would indicate how many Primary Care Teams have been set up since this Forum was established and where these Primary Care Teams are actually located throughout the HSE West area”.

Councillor Bridie Willers stated that she wished to withdraw the Motion as she would like to put it forward as a Question at a future meeting of the Forum.

W7M66 “That in view of the unanimous decision of this Forum to condemn the giving over of private land for the construction of a private hospital and in view of the utter congestion on the existing Regional Hospital site and in view of the utter failure of the HSE West to provide adequate public nursing home beds for our elderly and to end the disgraceful situation where there is over a five year waiting list for admission to St. Francis Home with 7 empty beds due to lack of resources and in view of the Minister for Health, Mary Harney’s u-turn on her decision not to go ahead with the construction of the said private hospital on public lands, that this Forum once again condemn the Minister’s decision to now proceed with the construction of the private hospital and that this Forum call on the HSE and the Minister for Health to immediately stop this project and further that this

Forum be given and full and comprehensive and urgent report on exactly where this proposal/plan currently is at and where precisely it is proposed to locate this private hospital”.

Councillor Catherine Connolly withdrew this Motion as she stated that the matter was address in Motion No. W10M91.

W8M67 “That the PCCC Committee call on the HSE West to ask the Minister for Health & Children to provide the necessary neurosurgery services for the HSE West in Galway”.

Proposed by Councillor Catherine Connolly, seconded by Councillor Declan Bree and adopted.

W8M68 “The Hospital Committee recommends that the Regional Health Forum, West condemns the recent attack on Ambulance Crews in the Limerick City area”.

Proposed by Councillor John Hogan, seconded by Councillor Bernard McGuinness and adopted.

W8M70 “I request that the HSE recognise the importance of early intervention at primary school level and act accordingly”.

Proposed by Councillor Brian Meaney, seconded by Councillor Bridie Willers and adopted.

W8M73 “That Cardiac Surgery would be operational at UCHG within one month”.

As Councillor Healy-Eames was not present, the Motion was lost.

W8M74 “That the Regional Health Forum West calls on the HSE to appoint extra Speech and Language Therapists in 2007 in order to improve services and reduce waiting lists. At the end of the 2006/2007 academic year, there will be approximately one hundred students graduating. This represents a welcome and long overdue development and suggests that the two year waiting lists for Speech and Language Therapy Services in Ireland can now be seriously addressed”.

As Councillor Bill Chambers was not present, the Motion was lost.

W8M75 “That this Forum discuss the long delay in admitting patients through the A & E Section at Letterkenny General Hospital in spite of the excellent work being done by the staff of the Hospital”

Proposed by Councillor David Alcorn, seconded by Councillor Sean McEniff and adopted.

W8M76 “That this Forum receive a full report on the Domestic Violence Response Service in Connemara and in particular, the total funding and sources of funding for this project/initiative which currently allows for only one front line worker, the status of the Regional Planning Committee and its members given the restructuring within the HSE, representation from the Domestic Violence Response on such a Regional Planning Committee and an explanation as to why the extra funding necessary to expand the service on the basis of the needs and objectives outlined by the Domestic Violence Response Service has been repeatedly refused and/or not made available for over the last number of years”.

Proposed by Councillor Catherine Connolly, seconded by Councillor Declan Bree and adopted.

W8M78 “I propose that the HSE West set a time frame to complete the disability database within our own catchment area and request the HSE Executive to do the same nationally”.

Proposed by Councillor Tomas Mannion, seconded by Councillor John Hogan and adopted.

W8M81 “That the HSE Mid West would outline its timetable for proceeding with the capital development project for Ennis General Hospital and the timetable for construction to begin and conclude on this extension”.

As Councillor Joe Cooney was not present, the Motion was lost.

W8M84 “That this Health Forum, conscious of the fact that 20,000 new cases of cancer are diagnosed in the State each year with 7,500 dying from the disease; calls on the Government and Minister for Health to make a clear and comprehensive statement on current services for cancer patients in this State and to clarify in detail the position on the implementation of the national plan for radiation oncology, and further the Forum expresses its deep concern that a comprehensive national breast screening programme is not yet in place and in addition, the Forum expresses its deep concern at the failure to put in place a comprehensive national cervical cancer screening programme, 11 years after this was announced”.

Proposed by Councillor Declan Bree and adopted.

W8M69 “The Hospital Committee recommends to the Regional Health Forum, West that the necessary resources be provided so that the Ambulance Service will be in a position to provide the necessary training for all voluntary non-profit organisations to train volunteers and First Responders in the use of defibrillators”.

Proposed by Councillor John Hogan, seconded by Councillor Eugene Murphy and adopted.

W8M71 “That preliminary findings and recommendations of the Report reviewing Acute Services in the Mid West be made available before May 2007”.

As the date had expired, Councillor Meaney asked that the Motion be withdrawn.

W8M77 “Given that a public patient waiting list for a liver scan was informed that there was a year and a half waiting time for such a scan but that if the patient opted to pay a private fee, the patient would be seen within days in the same public hospital that this Forum receive an urgent and comprehensive report as to how such a situation could arise and in particular, how many public patients are on a waiting list for a liver scan in Galway, how long the waiting list is, the waiting list and length of waiting time for patients seen privately for the same liver scan in the public hospital and the allocation of hours and resources for the use of such scanner(s) for patients seen privately and patients seen publicly in the public hospital”.

Councillor Connolly stated that since submission of this Motion, she has been informed that there is in fact no waiting list for liver scans at the Galway Hospitals. She was happy to withdraw the Motion once it was confirmed that this was the case. Mr Alan Moran, Hospital Network Manager is to clarify the position to Councillor Connolly.

W8M79 “I propose that HSE West implement CAMP West (Computer Aided Mobilisation Project) as soon as possible. I also propose that this item is put on the Agenda for a full discussion”.

Proposed by Councillor Tomas Mannion, seconded by Councillor Tony Ward and adopted.

W8M82 “That the HSE Mid West would increase funding for the Home Help system so that an increased number of carers could be employed and thereby alleviate the pressure on nursing homes and the health services”.

As Councillor Joe Cooney was not present, the Motion was lost.

W8M72 “That the HSE have regard for the link between availability of acute Health Services and industrial development. The models of international best practice that delivers acute services through smaller hospital services and have regard for the models of international best practice”.

Proposed by Councillor Brian Meaney, seconded by Councillor Bridie Willers and adopted.

W8M80 “I propose that in light of the fact that as more services are moved from Merlin Park to UCHG, that the HSE West inform this Forum of any further proposed changes as major difficulties are being created for patients and their carers at present by such moves”.

Proposed by Councillor Tomas Mannion, seconded by Councillor Eugene Murphy and adopted.

W9M81 “The PCCC Committee recommends to the Regional Health Forum, West that the HSE given formal input to Housing Policy in each Local Authority, by way of representation on the Special Policy Committee on Housing”.

Proposed by Councillor Declan Bree, seconded by Councillor Eugene Murphy and adopted.

W9M82 “That this Forum receive a full report and explanation as to why no Audiologist Scientist has been employed in Galway on a full time basis since the permanent Audiologist retired in 2002, details of when the post was advertised in the interim and what grade of post and the responses to same and specific details on the current status of the post including whether the post has been advertised and/or is to be advertised, in which countries and what grade and/or clarification on whether someone has already been appointed and/or whether recent interviews have taken place giving details of number of applicants etc. together with full details and breakdown of the waiting list in the City and County”.

Proposed by Councillor Catherine Connolly, seconded by Councillor Bridie Willers and adopted.

W9M83 “That this Forum requests the HSE to appoint a full-time Speech Therapist on a shared basis at Portiuncula Hospital, Ballinasloe and Roscommon County Hospital”.

Proposed by Councillor Tony Ward, seconded by Councillor Eugene Murphy and adopted.

W9M84 “That this Forum requests the HSE to make a submission to the Minister for Finance, the Minister for Health and the Minister for Social & Family Affairs to include the fees for the social monitored alarm systems in the Free Schemes, i.e. to be included with gas, electricity, telephone rental, travel and the TV Licence. Those who qualify for the alarm systems, such as pendant alarms for personal safety, are mainly elderly people who are either living alone”.

Proposed by Councillor Tony Ward, seconded by Councillor Eugene Murphy and adopted.

W10M85 “That the members discuss the reason why in the case of a recent rape incident in Ballyshannon, the lady had to be taken to Castlebar as Letterkenny Hospital did not have the facilities to deal with the case”.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McEniff, seconded by Councillor Ciaran Brogan and adopted.

W10M86 “I propose that this Forum discuss the treatment available in North West for people who suffer from Sexual Assault”.

Proposed by Councillor Sean McEniff, seconded by Councillor Ciaran Brogan and adopted.

W10M87 “I ask that this Forum request that the CEO of the HSE, Dr. Drumm outline his view of the advantages and disadvantages of the co-location of private hospitals on the grounds of public hospitals”.

Proposed by Councillor Brian Meaney, seconded by Councillor John Hogan and adopted.

W10M90 “That this Forum receive a full report and clarification as to why the Private Hospital in Doughiska has not been asked by the Health Executive to admit public patients and comply with their legal obligations”.

Proposed by Councillor Catherine Connolly, seconded by Councillor Declan Bree and adopted.

W10M88 “That this Forum request the HSE give a long term commitment to 24 hour accident and emergency services at Ennis General Hospital”.

Proposed by Councillor Brian Meaney, seconded by Councillor Bridie Willers and adopted.

W10M91 “In view of the decision of the HSE not to proceed with a co-located private hospital on the grounds of University College Hospital and the sudden announcement at the last Health Forum meeting that the HSE plans to co-locate a ‘Cancer Hospital’ on the grounds instead, can this Forum now receive a full and comprehensive report on the nature of such a hospital, its ownership, the site on the hospital grounds where it is intended to construct such a hospital, the proposed size, when and how this decision was made and by whom, where it fits in to the overall health strategy and policy and the current status of this proposal and if such a hospital is necessary, why Merlin Park Hospital grounds are not being considered”.

Proposed by Councillor Catherine Connolly, seconded by Councillor Declan Bree and adopted.

W10M89 “This Forum requests the releasing of funds to allow the completion of their Alzheimer Day Centre in Clarecastle, Co. Clare”.

Proposed by Councillor Brian Meaney, seconded by Councillor Gerry Reynolds and adopted.

117/10/07 Any Other Business/Aon Ghnó eile

Councillor Patsy O’Brien queried the present position regarding purchase of a site in the Ballinrobe area for use as a Community Nursing Unit and Health Centre. He also requested clarification regarding the appointment of a Dentist to the Ballinrobe Health Centre. It was agreed that the matter would be referred to Seamus McNulty, Assistant National Director, PCCC, HSE West.

Ambulance Service

Councillor Padraig Conneely stated he wished to compliment the HSE Ambulance Service on their efficiency, speed and professionalism in dealing with the incident at the Galway Air Show on Sunday 24th June.

118/10/07 Date and Time of Next Meeting/

Dáta agus Am an Chéad Chruinnithe Eile

The next meeting of the Regional Health Forum, West, will be held on **Tuesday 25th September, 2007 at 2.00pm in the HSE Offices, Room 1, Education Centre, Merlin Park, Galway.**

The Chairman pointed out that Professor Drumm has been invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee. The Director stated that he would write to Professor Drumm on behalf of the Chairman outlining the details of the Motions passed by the Forum over the last year.

Members asked for the following items to be placed on the Agenda:

1. Proposed by Councillor Tim Quinn and seconded by Councillor David Alcorn
“To ask Professor Drumm if two members of each Regional Health Forum should be represented on the Board of the HSE”.
2. Councillor Eugene Murphy sought clarification regarding the cut of €100,000 in the allocation of the budget to the HSE West. It was agreed that the matter would be referred to Mr. Liam Minihan, Assistant National Director of Finance.

It was agreed that any further items for the Agenda would be forwarded in writing to the Director.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach/Chairman

Adopted at Regional Health Forum Meeting on Tuesday 25th September, 2007

Date:
