

**Health Service Executive Board**  
of  
**2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2007**

**Members present:** L. Downey (Chair), N. Brennan, D. De Buitleir, B. Drumm, (CEO), P.J. Fitzpatrick, M. Gaffney, J. Macri, E. McCague, M. McLoone, J. Murray, A Scott and M. Murphy.

**Attendees:** T. Martin, L. McGuinness, J. O'Brien, D. Purcell (Board Secretary).

**Joined the meeting:** M. McDonald, L. Woods, A. Doherty, G. Barry, K. Sabra, P. Healy, M. Culliton

**Time & Location:** HSE – EA Offices, Adelaide Road, Dublin at 8.00a.m.

The items are presented in the order in which they were discussed at the meeting.

Item	Discussion / Comments	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	
	The minutes of the meeting held on 1 <sup>st</sup> February, 2007 were agreed.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Matters arising from minutes</b>	
	Under matters arising it was requested that the items on Performance Measurement/Indicators and the update on the Transformation Programme would be dealt with at the April Board meeting.	
<b>3</b>	<b>CEO's Report</b>	
	<p>The CEO spoke to the report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The following items were discussed in particular.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress on the work of the Expert Advisory Groups and the decision to establish an Expert Advisory Group on Oral Health.</li> <li>• The meetings being held by the CEO in each of the four administrative areas.</li> <li>• The Winter Initiative, particularly the issue of delayed discharges in some of the acute hospitals, such as Cork University Hospital, St. Vincent's University Hospital and Beaumont Hospital.</li> </ul> <p><b>Nurses Pay Dispute</b></p> <p>M. McDonald joined the meeting and circulated a briefing paper setting out the position in relation to the Nurses Pay Dispute. He advised the Board that: all of the issues associated with the INO / PNA campaign were the subject of an in-depth examination by the Labour Court which recommended that their pay claims should be processed through the Public Service Benchmarking Body.</p> <p>A national co-ordinating Committee and local management groups have been established to ensure that the potential adverse impact on patients, should the threatened action go ahead, is kept to a minimum.</p> <p>The Board noted the update report and the recommendations made previously by the Labour Court on the eight claims.</p> <p>The Chair advised that a Forum may be established under the auspices of the National Implementation Board to progress the resolution of this dispute.</p>	

	He also informed the meeting that, following meetings between ICTU and the Taoiseach/Minister for Health and Children, a Forum on Health Services may be established by the Taoiseach. The membership of this Forum would include representatives from ICTU the various Health Service Unions, the HSE, and the Departments of Health and Children, Finance and Taoiseach.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Finance Report</b>	
	<p>L. Woods joined the meeting for this item and presented the Finance Report which had been previously circulated as part of the Service Plan Monitoring Report.</p> <p>He advised that a breakeven position was forecast to end of the year at this stage but the challenge is to control expenditure over the year to achieve a breakeven position month on month. Expenditure to end of January 2007 was €42 million in excess of budget.</p> <p>The Board requested that, in the context of devolved budget management to local health office level and hospital network level, a forecast outturn figure would be provided each month and that the distribution of all new additional monies would be shown in the budget figures.</p>	L. Woods
<b>7</b>	<b>Shared Services Implementation Update</b>	
	<p>The CEO informed the Board that, to address the concerns expressed by the Board at the February meeting on the governance arrangements for the shared services deployment strategy, L. Woods has agreed to take on executive responsibility for the overarching implementation of the new Deployment Strategy across each of the functions.</p> <p>L. Woods then circulated a document on the governance arrangements for the Shared Services Deployment Strategy.</p> <p>These governance arrangements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The establishment of a Governance Committee to be chaired by L Woods.</li> <li>• a National Shared Services Operating Group. This Group will comprise the lead persons for each of the functions which deliver Shared Services, i.e. Finance, HR, Procurement, ICT and will also include a Shared Service Expert.</li> <li>• The Operating Group will report to the Steering Committee on a monthly basis.</li> </ul> <p>The Board welcomed these arrangements and requested that the Governance Committee would report to the Board on a quarterly basis.</p>	L. Woods
<b>5</b>	<b>Service Plan Monitoring Report January 2007</b>	
	<p>A. Doherty joined the meeting for this item and highlighted the revised format for reporting on the Service Plan.</p> <p>The revised format was welcomed. The Board requested that a colour coded system would be introduced to highlight variances in service delivery/performance against the Service Plan.</p> <p>The Board noted the Monitoring Report for January 2007</p>	A. Doherty
<b>6</b>	<b>Consultant Contract Negotiations – Update</b>	
	<p>G. Barry joined the meeting for this item and provided an update on the Consultant Contract negotiations.</p> <p>G. Barry advised that discussions were ongoing. The major issue of concern at this stage in the talks is the contract type on offer. The Consultant Organisation's have placed considerable emphasis on the need for a range</p>	

	<p>of contract options.</p> <p>He informed the Board that an interim report from the talks Chairman had been sent to the Minister on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2007. This interim report would be circulated to Board Members for their information.</p> <p>The Board also requested that the HSE's negotiating team should make sure that the new contract provided for the conduct of teaching, training, and the facilitation or conduct of research by consultants.</p> <p>Following a discussion on the strategic significance and proposed expansion in the number of consultant medical posts the Board noted that proposals are awaited from management on the regulation of appointments of consultant medical posts.</p> <p>The Board requested that Management proposals on the regulation of appointments of consultant medical posts would be discussed at the April Board meeting.</p>	<p><b>Board Secretary</b></p> <p><b>G. Barry</b></p> <p><b>T Martin</b></p>
<b>8</b>	<b>Corporate Pharmaceutical Unit - Progress Report on Key Actions</b>	
	<p>K. Sabra joined the meeting for this item and made a presentation on the key activities of the Corporate Pharmaceutical Unit.</p> <p>The presentation highlighted the key actions taken to date particularly the new agreements with the Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association (IPHA) and the Association of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers in Ireland (APMI). It is estimated that this deal will reduce annual drug price increases from 14% to approximately 6% and bring savings of €300m over the next four years.</p> <p>Following questions and answers the Board thanked K. Sabra for the presentation.</p> <p>The Board recommended that in relation to the paper circulated by K. Sabra on the beneficial ownership of Pharmacies by doctors this matter could be referred to the Medical Council for consideration under medical ethics.</p>	<p><b>K Sabra</b></p>
<b>9</b>	<b>Services for Older Persons - Implementation of the Government decisions on the recommendations of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Long Term Care,</b>	
	<p>P. Healy joined the meeting for this item and made a presentation on the implementation by the HSE of the new policy initiatives from the Department of Health and Children and Government in the area of Services for Older Persons.</p> <p>The presentation highlighted that the HSE had undertaken five major pieces of work to support the implementation of the Government's new policy initiative. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Assessment of Need &amp; Outline Procurement Options for Residential Care for Older People</li> <li>• National Guidelines for the Standardised Implementation of Nursing Home Subvention Scheme</li> <li>• National Standardised Care Needs Assessment</li> <li>• National Guidelines for Standardised Implementation of Home Care Packages</li> <li>• Inspection of Private Registered Nursing Homes</li> </ul>	

	Following questions the Board thanked P. Healy for the presentation.	
<b>10</b>	<b>HSE Comments and Complaints Policy - Implementation of the Health Act 2004 (Complaints) Regulations 2006</b>	
	<p>M. Culliton joined the meeting for this item and made a presentation which highlighted the functions of the Consumer Affairs Office and the HSE Comments and Complaints Policy in place to give effect to Part 9 of the Health Act 2004 which came into operation with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January.</p> <p>Following questions and answers the Board thanked M. Culliton for the presentation.</p> <p>It was requested that the new Complaints and Procedures Policy would be reviewed to ensure it is in line with and cross referenced to the Board's document on Complaint's Management in its Code of Governance and that there is a co-ordinated approach between the Complaints Policy and the Risk Policy.</p>	<b>M Culliton.</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Preparation of Annual Report 2006 Update</b>	
	The Chairman advised the meeting that the Annual Report was in preparation and that a draft would be made available to the Board Members in advance of the meeting on the 29 <sup>th</sup> March 2007.	
<b>12</b>	<b>Reports from Committees of the Board</b>	
	<p>1. Minutes were circulated of the Audit Committee meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2007 and the Risk Committee meetings on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007 and 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007.</p> <p>2. <b>Report on Audit Committee meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2007</b></p> <p>The Chair of the Committee N. Brennan outlined the main items of discussion at the Committee meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2007. These were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of the Annual Financial Statements and appropriation Accounts for 2006 was on target.</li> <li>• Yvonne O'Neill the new Assistant National Director for Value for Money gave a presentation on efficiency initiatives and Value for Money</li> <li>• Overpayments had been made in the long stay repayment scheme by the Scheme Administrators. A report had been requested from the scheme auditors.</li> <li>• An action plan to implement the recommendations of The National Treasury Management Agency Report on banking in the HSE was being prepared for consideration by the Audit Committee at its next meeting.</li> </ul> <p>3. <b>Remuneration Committee.</b></p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting of this Committee was scheduled to take place immediately after the Board meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2007.</p> <p>4. <b>Report on the Risk Committee meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2007</b></p> <p>The Chair of the Committee A. Scott outlined the main items of discussion at the Committee meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2007. These were the preparation of the Quality and Risk Strategy, which was in an advanced stage of preparation, the continued redeployment of staff to key functions under the HSE/Impact working group and arrangements to appoint an external consultant to advise on the development of a Risk Framework for the HSE.</p>	

<b>13</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	<p>It was noted that a two day meeting of the Board was scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2007.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Board meeting scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> April would be deferred to the 19<sup>th</sup> April to facilitate the adoption of the Annual Report in line with the statutory deadline of the 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2007.</p> <p>It was also noted that the Minister for Health and Children had replied to the Chairman indicating that a response to the Code of Governance would be issued within the next four to six weeks.</p>	

The meeting concluded at 1.30p.m.

Signed:

Date:

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Liam Downey  
Chairman

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