

**Minutes of fifth annual meeting of the Regional Health Forum, Dublin – Mid
Leinster held on Tuesday 6th July 2010 at the boardroom of the HSE, Dublin –
Mid Leinster Offices, Unit 4, Central Business Park, Clonminch, Tullamore, Co.
Offaly**

Present:

Cllr. M. Dollard (Chairperson)

Cllr. W. Aird

Cllr. G. Brady

Cllr. J. Dillon Byrne

Cllr. T. Cullen

Cllr. P. Doran

Cllr. S. Harris

Cllr. G. Horkan

Cllr. P. Hand

Cllr. C. King

Cllr. S. Langan

Cllr. L. Minihan

Cllr. C. NiDhalaigh

Cllr. D. O'Callaghan

Cllr. F. O'Loughlin

Cllr. P.J. Reilly

Cllr. P. Belton

Cllr. F. Browne

Cllr. S. Crowe

Cllr. A. Davitt

Cllr. M. Duff

Cllr. M. Heydon

Cllr. K. Humphreys

Cllr. P. Kennedy

Cllr. B. Lawlor

Cllr. T. McKeigue

Cllr. R. Moynihan

Cllr. K. O'Brien

Cllr. G. O'Connell

Cllr. P. Ormond

Cllr. J. Ryan

Apologies:

Cllr. M. Bailey

Cllr. C. Byrne

Cllr. C. Devlin

In Attendance:

Mr. John Cregan, Director, RHO, Dublin – Mid Leinster

Mr. Gerry O'Dwyer, Regional Director of Operations, Dublin – Mid Leinster

Mr. Gerry O'Neill, Assistant National Director, HSE

Ms. Louise McMahon, Hospital Network Manager

Mr. David O'Sullivan, Chief Emergency Management Officer, Dublin – Mid Leinster

Ms. Dymphna Bracken Area Communications Manager, HSE, Dublin – Mid Leinster

Ms. Eileen Brophy, RHO, Dublin – Mid Leinster

10:04:01 Election of Chairperson

In an address to members, Cllr. M. Dollard conveyed his thanks to all Forum members for their support and assistance during his term as Chairperson of the Regional Health Forum. He also thanked Mr. John Cregan and the staff of the Regional Health Office for their assistance.

Forum members praised and thanked Cllr. Dollard for his work as Chairman of the Forum.

Cllr. M. Dollard then invited nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Forum.

Cllr. W. Aird proposed Cllr. Simon Harris. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. T. Cullen. No other candidate being nominated, Cllr. Simon Harris was deemed elected and assumed the chair. Cllr. Harris stated that he looked forward to working with all members of the Forum and the staff of the HSE.

10:04:02 Election of Vice Chairperson

Cllr. S. Harris Chairperson invited nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson of the Forum.

Cllr. Jane Dillon Byrne proposed Cllr. Denis O'Callaghan. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Rebecca Moynihan. No other candidate being nominated, Cllr. Denis O'Callaghan was deemed to be elected.

10:04:03 Adoption of Minutes of Regional Health Forum meeting held on 18th May 2010

On the proposal of Cllr. W. Aird, seconded by Cllr. P. Dolan, the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th May 2010 were adopted.

10:04:04 Chairperson's Correspondence

No items for consideration by the meeting were received.

10:04:05 Noting of report of Joint Committee Chairperson for the Acute Hospital Services and Population Health and Primary Community and Continuing Care Committees

The Chairperson's Report was noted.

10:04:06 HSE Update – Major Emergency Management

Mr. David O'Sullivan, Chief Emergency Management Officer, made a presentation on Major Emergency Management.

Following the presentation, members raised the following issues:

- Authority to call a major emergency
- Response to 2010 flooding
- Responsibility for coastal areas
- Fire Services
- Ferry Safety

In response to query regarding the calling of a major emergency, Mr. O'Sullivan stated that key personnel have been identified in each area and that the lead agency responsible for the implementation of the Major Emergency Plan has been assigned.

In relation to flooding in early 2010, Mr. O'Sullivan stated the HSE established a crisis management team which met on a daily basis to review events as they unfolded.

In response to query regarding emergency plan for coastal areas, Mr. O'Sullivan stated that Irish Coast Guard Service is the designated authority and that the HSE provides resources to Air Corp to assist with the provision of health care for patients as required.

In response to query regarding fire services Mr. O'Sullivan stated that the HSE and Chief Fire Officers have a close working relationship. Mr. O'Sullivan also stated that Pre Hospital Emergency Services provide adequate equipment for fire services.

In response to query raised regarding safety issues on ferries, Mr. O'Sullivan stated that the Department of Marine was the appropriate authority and the case quoted would be referred to that Department.

The members thanked Mr. O'Sullivan for his presentation.

Any Other Business

Cllr. T. McKeigue raised an instance where, it appeared, a CT scanner was not available in Midland Regional Hospital, Tullamore. Cllr. McKeigue was advised to provide details and that HSE staff with responsibility for this area would revert to him.

Cllr. P.J. Reilly requested an update in relation to Primary Care Team in Flancare, Longford. This information will be forwarded to him when available.

Members raised the issue of HSE involvement in allocation of houses and payment of rent allowances in the Wicklow area. Members were advised that the HSE does not comment on individual cases, but it was planned to issue a press release on the general issue raised.

Cllr. S. Langan raised the issue of a reported overpayment by the HSE for childcare places in a crèche in Newbridge. In response to this query, and in the absence of any prior notice Mr. Gerry O'Neill agreed to revert to Cllr. Langan following investigation of the matter raised.

Following discussion, it was agreed to place the Fair Deal and facilities for Care of the Elderly on the agenda for the September meeting of the Forum. Members have already agreed to place Vision for Change on the October meeting agenda.

Members noted that meetings with local HSE management held in Laois and Wicklow have been very informative.

10:04:07 Motions

I call on the HSE that the embalming facilities be retained in Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise and a service level agreement be offered to qualified embalmers. Portlaoise has state of the art mortuary facilities following a refurbishment making it one of the most modern in Ireland.

Cllr. K. O'Brien

A response in reply to this motion was prepared by Mr. Joe Martin, General Manager, Dublin – Midlands Hospital Group. This report was noted by the Forum.

Motion 2.

Following the review of Hospitals in our region I call on the HSE to retain all and full services in Midland Regional Hospital, Portlaoise.

Cllr. W. Aird

A response in reply to this motion was prepared by Mr. Joe Martin, General Manager, Dublin – Midlands Hospital Group. This report was noted by the Forum.

Motion 3.

That this forum recognises early intervention in Cases of Childhood intellectual and behavioural conditions, it is vital for good outcomes, and that lengthy assessments and waiting lists are detrimental to the treatment of the affected children. The forum further notes that the revision of resources for assessment services is arbitrary and varies considerably between local health offices The forum therefore asks the HSE and the minister to investigate a restructuring of this system so that resources are allocated on a needs basis and that in the interim children on long waiting lists can be referred to services in other local health offices to ensure prompt assessment.

Cllr. Seamus Langan

A response in reply to this motion was prepared by Mr. Gerry O'Neill, Assistant National Director, HSE. This report was noted by the Forum.

Motion 4.

That the HSE report on all aspects of the proposed sale of H.S.E owned lands consisting of the site encompassing Shankill Health Centre and associated lands at Lower Road Shankill Co Dublin including a site map, and that this Health Forum expresses serious concern regarding the proposal to develop a new Health Centre through a Private Public Partnership.

Cllr Denis O Callaghan.

A response in reply to this motion was prepared by Mr. Gerry O'Neill, Assistant National Director, HSE. This report was noted by the Forum.

Motion 5.

That the HSE outline to this forum the medium term plan over the next two years for the expansion/closure or otherwise of older persons beds in St. Vincents Hospital Athy and the Drogheda Memorial hospital in the Curragh.

Cllr. Martin Heydon

A response in reply to this motion was prepared by Mr. Gerry O'Neill, Assistant National Director, HSE. This report was noted by the Forum. Following discussion, Mr. O'Neill agreed to provide an update for circulation at the next Forum meeting.

10:04:08 Questions

Responses to questions submitted were circulated to members.

Signed: _____
Cllr. Simon Harris
Chairperson

Date: _____