

**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held in OLC HC Board Room on
Wednesday, 24th September, 2014 at 4.30 p.m.**

***Some items have been redacted in line with the Freedom of Information Acts
1997 & 2003***

Present

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin (Chairperson), Mr. Frank Magee (Deputy Chairperson), Mr. Lorcan Birthistle (Chief Executive), Mr. John Byrne, Mr. David Devlin, Ms. Geraldine Hickey, Ms. Mary Kelly, Sr. Anna Kennedy, Councillor Ruairi McGinley, Councillor Ray McHugh, Mr. Martin O'Rourke, Mr. Turlough O'Sullivan, Dr. Maurice Smyth, Dr. Sean Walsh & Mr. Paul White.

In Attendance

Dr. Billy Casey, Ms. Sharon Hayden, Mr. John Cotter, Ms. Pamela McDonald, Ms. Rachel Kenna & Ms. Noreen Johnson.

Apologies

Mr. John Healy.

Conflict of Interest

No declarations of conflict.

14.8.2 Draft Minutes

Draft minutes of meeting held on 30th July, 2014, having been circulated, **WERE APPROVED** and signed by the Chairperson.

Action: Approved

14.8.3 Chief Executive's Report

Mr. L. Birthistle spoke to:

14.8.3.1 State's Interest – Grant Agreement

Mr. Birthistle advised that the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive met with Mr. Tony O'Brien, Director General of the HSE in relation to a Memorandum of Understanding. Following this meeting, an amended Memorandum of Understanding was received earlier this week which was considered by the Board. Following a detailed discussion, the Board approved the amended Memorandum of Understanding. It was agreed that the Chief Executive will sign the agreement on behalf of the Board.

Action: L. Birthistle

14.8.3.2 Service Level Arrangement

Mr. Birthistle confirmed that a Service Level Arrangement was received in August, 2014. A meeting has been arranged with the HSE to discuss this further.

Action: L. Birthistle

14.8.3.3 Children's Hospital Group

The meeting was informed that the formal announcement of the design team was launched earlier today, 24th September, 2014. Engagement with staff in the three paediatric hospitals is commencing 25th September, 2014, with Design Co-Ordinators from the National Paediatric Development Board on site in OLCHC.

Action: Noted

14.8.3.4 Single Legal Entity

Mr. Magee advised of a meeting of a working group of representatives comprising the three paediatric hospitals and the National Paediatric Hospital Board. There is general consensus that there is a requirement for statutory change. Legislation which will be solely for the New Children's Hospital will take approximately 12 months to enact, which will establish the new hospital as a state owned facility with an independent board, to be appointed at a later date. Mr. Magee outlined for the Board a summary of discussions which have taken place to date. Further meetings are being arranged.

Action: Noted

14.8.3.5 Northern Ireland Paediatric Congenital Cardiac Surgery

Mr. Birthistle outlined to the Board the recent media attention concerning the change in personnel of the Northern Ireland Minister for Health, Edwin Poots, and his recent statement concerning the transfer of cardiac services to Dublin. The Board was informed of the extensive resource requirements in terms of capacity and staffing required to cater for Northern Ireland patients. The hospital has received €1.4m to stabilise the hospital's existing Cardiac Programme.

Action: Noted

14.8.3.6 Genetics Department

Redacted

The department, previously termed the National Centre for Medical Genetics, will henceforth be known as the Genetics Department. The Board requested a further update in due course.

14.8.3.7 TV Documentary

Mr. Birthistle outlined to the Board an agreement entered into with Independent Pictures to undertake a TV documentary on Our Lady's Children's Hospital. It is anticipated that filming will commence in the hospital at the end of 2014 and will be broadcast on RTE in quarter three of 2015.

14.8.3.8 European Working Time Directive (EWTB)

The Board noted that the hospital continues to be penalised in relation to EWTB non-compliance.

14.8.3.9 PICU Staffing

Ms. Kenna informed the Board that two beds are closed in PICU due to an unprecedented number of resignations. To address this, an aggressive recruitment programme is underway. A training period will then be required, with a further review date of end of October, 2014. It is anticipated that both beds will be re-opened in due course.

Action: Noted

Ms. S. Hayden spoke to:

14.8.3.10 Emergency Theatre

Ms. Hayden explained that utilisation of theatre in August reached 75%. Scheduled elective activity has been impacted upon by this initiative.

14.8.3.11 Scheduled Care

Ms. Hayden outlined the significant challenges being experienced by the hospital in relation to breaching the 20 week and 12 month targets. This was escalated to the HSE in August. There is no indication of additional funding for the management of waiting lists and the hospital is currently risk assessing each speciality to ensure equity of prioritisation.

Action: S. Hayden

Ms. R. Kenna spoke to:

14.8.3.12 Quality Improvement Plans

Ms. Kenna provided summary of updated Quality Improvement Plan, previously circulated.

Action: Noted

14.8.3.13 Redacted

14.8.3.14 Endoscopy Report

Mr. Birthistle provided a summary of the background to the HSE Report recently received which was previously circulated to the Board. It was emphasised that there was no patient harm arising from this incident.

Action: Noted

Mr. J. Cotter spoke to:

14.8.3.15 Budget 2014

Mr. Cotter confirmed that the current allocation for 2014 stands at €113.25m.

14.8.3.16 Financial Performance

The net expenditure for August, 2014 was €9.834m representing a decrease in net expenditure which was driven by a reduction in pay and non-pay expenditure. It was noted that the income for August was €44K higher in comparison to the same period in 2013 which indicates that the hospital is maintaining improved performance.

Overall, the projected deficit for 2014 stands at €3.1m. Meetings have been arranged with the HSE in relation to allocation concerns.

14.8.3.17 Cash Flow

Mr. Cotter advised that the negative cash position projected is driven primarily by the unsustainable reduction in HSE allocation which continues to be communicated to senior HSE officials. The projected cash position has been helped by the increase in receipts from health insurance companies following correspondence which is recognised by the HSE.

14.8.3.18 Redacted

14.8.4 Finance Committee

Deferred as no meeting has taken place since the last Board meeting.

Action: Deferred

14.8.5 Audit & Non-Clinical Risk Committee

Deferred as no meeting has taken place since the last Board meeting.

Action: Deferred

14.8.6 Governance, Nominations & Remuneration Committee

14.8.6.1 Annual Compliance Statement

Mr. O'Sullivan spoke to Annual Compliance Statement progress report which was tabled to the meeting. It is anticipated that compliance will be achieved by year end.

Action: Noted

14.8.6.2 Board Sub-Committee Membership

This matter was deferred

Action: Deferred

14.8.6.3 Matters Reserved to the Board

Draft paper, previously circulated, was **APPROVED**.

Action: Approved

14.8.6.4 Roles & Responsibilities of OLCHC Directors

Draft paper, previously circulated, was **APPROVED**.

Action: Approved

14.8.7 Any Other Business

No business for discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting then concluded.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 29th October, 2014, commencing at 4.30 p.m.