



An Bord Comhairleach um Achtanna na Leanaí  
Children Acts Advisory Board

***Meeting of  
Children Acts Advisory Board  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2009  
Phoenix House  
Minutes***

**Present:** Jacinta Stewart (Chair)  
Michael Donnellan, Nuala Doherty, Cathal Flynn  
Roger Killeen, Finbarr Murphy, Michelle Shannon,  
Dermot Stokes,

**Apologies:** Cathleen Callanan, Phil Hanna, Charlie Hardy, Gerry O'Neill,  
Jane Craig, Robert Murphy,

**In Attendance:** Aidan Browne, Finbarr O'Leary, Clodagh Thorne,

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**Declaration of Interest in agenda items, by Board Members**

- No conflict of interests declared.

**1. Minutes of last meeting**

- The minutes from the previous meeting were adopted and subsequently signed by Chair, Ms. Jacinta Stewart.
- A warm welcome was extended to Jacinta Stewart on her return as Chair of the Board and sincere thanks were given to Michael Donnellan for his hard work and dedication as acting chair in Jacinta's absence.

**2. Matters Arising**

- There were no matters arising.

**3. Chief Executive Report**

**The Chief Executive reported on the following topics:**

**Government Decision**

- There were no further updates.

### **Budget 2009**

- Correspondence was received from the Department of Health and Children regarding the non-capital expenditure for 2009 advising CAAB of the revised approved level of the net non-capital expenditure for CAAB in light of recent Government decisions regarding public expenditure. It was noted that the revised approved level of net non-capital expenditure for 2009 is now €2.199m.

### **Guardian ad litem guidance**

- The official launch of the Guardian ad litem guidance will take place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May in Buswells Hotel, Molesworth Street. The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs will launch the report.

### **Evidence to Practice Seminar**

- The Evidence to practice seminar will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009 in the Gresham Hotel.

### **Supporting Garda Síochána**

- It was noted that a request was made from the Garda Chief Superintendent, Patrick Leahy, Dublin North Central Division for the continued involvement of Rose Sweeney, Advisory Officer in the Garda Case Management training programme.

### **Meeting with Centre for Effective Service**

- A meeting took place was held with Deborah Ghaté, Director, Centre for Effective Services, it was agreed to exchange work plans and to work closely with one another over the remainder of 2009.

### **Special Care Discharge Criteria**

It was mentioned that the working group comprising of the HSE and HIQA/SSI nominees under the chairmanship of CAAB have met on two occasions. The focus will be on a service and rights-based approach. The CAAB are currently engaging with social workers as well as obtaining the views of the Board Members. Over 40 other letters to interested parties have been circulated requesting feedback and/or comments on a broad outline of proposed key headings.

### **Best practice on Physical Restraint (2006)**

The original SRSB guidelines were endorsed by all the key departments and agencies with a built-in review period. The CAAB are currently reviewing these guidelines with nominees from IYJS, HSE and HIQA/SSI. Preliminary meetings have taken place with the agencies on the best way forward prior to holding a full plenary meeting. The key focus will be on the adequacy or otherwise of the guidelines. Any other inter-related issues raised can be noted for future consideration.

### **Update on Rent Review**

- The board was informed that the landlord is claiming that there is a discrepancy of up to 1,000 square feet in the current measurements of the office floor plan. The rent review is due with effect from February 2009 and the only options are an increase in the rent or to remain at the same level. The Executive will keep the board updated on any further proceedings.

### **Future Board Meetings**

- A draft schedule of board meetings to the year end was circulated for Board approval. It was noted that an invitation was extended to Barry Andrews, Minister for Children and Youth Affairs and to Sylva Langford, Director of OMCYA to attend the proposed Strategy Review on 8<sup>th</sup> September. The Chief Executive asked the board to inform the Secretary of the board if they would like anybody else to attend.
- **Proposed Future Board Meetings are scheduled as follows and are all commencing at 2pm:**
  - **June 23<sup>rd</sup>**
  - **September 8<sup>th</sup>**
  - **October 20<sup>th</sup>**
  - **December 21<sup>st</sup>**

## **4. Subcommittee Reports**

### **a) Finance**

- A revised estimated budget for 2009 was circulated to the board reflecting reduction allocation to €2.199m. This revised budget was put to the board for approval. The revised budget was proposed by Cathal Flynn, seconded by Dermot Stokes and subsequently adopted by the board.

### **b) Research**

Dermot Stokes updated the board on the Research committee progress and the following points were noted:

- The HSE After Care Audit is due to be completed by June 2009 and the HSE also hope to finalise the Special Care & High Support Strategy in the near future.
- The evaluation of the school completion programme (SCP) and its findings are almost complete and is due to be sent out electronically as there is an embargo on printing.
- The OMCYA 'Ethics Study' is about to be published and will be launched at the Children's NUI Galway research conference.
- An update should be given mid summer on the 'Educational and Social Supports of Young People' being undertaken by Professor Robbie Gilligan, Trinity College.
- It was mentioned that the Research unit of the OMCYA is being brought in to the mainstream Department of Health and Children, as a resource across the Department.
- Discussions took place around the plans for the dissemination of the findings from the numerous CAAB research projects due to be published in 2009.
- It was noted that CAAB would be hosting the next research managers' network meeting on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> May.
- A discussion arose regarding CAAB's research projects the following points were noted:

- There may be an important impact on practice regarding children research and this point needs to be articulated to the OMCYA.
  - Dermot Stokes agreed to participate in the drafting of a short strategic paper on the research move to the OMCYA.
- It was mentioned that there is now no research unit within the OMCYA with the former research section being mainstreamed into the Department of Health and Children and the following points were noted following discussion:
  - Without a research unit it must be very difficult to maintain focus on children's lives.
  - The focus on Children's Research will now go into a generic pool with competitive interests for funding.
  - When CAAB are subsumed into the OMCYA there may be merging concerns with regard to focused or shared research.
  - It was decided to put this issue as an agenda item on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

### **c) Communications**

- The Communications committee did not meet. The next meeting will take place on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **5. Differential Response Model Report**

Aidan Browne gave a presentation entitled 'Towards a different response model – Implementing "Differential Response" in the Irish Context'. This presentation was circulated to all present.

## **6. 'A review of the future requirements of Special Care & High Support Provision in Ireland – A Strategic Response 2008' Gerry O'Neill**

As Gerry O'Neill was absent on HSE business this agenda item was postponed.

## **7. Capacity Monitoring Report on Children Detention Schools and Special Care Units.**

The Special Care – Level and nature report was circulated and a query arose regarding the staffing v capacity in Coovagh House. It was noted that staffing was only provided for 3 residents.

The IYJS – Level and Nature report was circulated and it was noted that the OPW were involved in the preparation and design of the new Lusk campus and it is anticipated that phase 1 is due for completion by 2012, when it will take 16 & 17 year old children.

**8. AOB**

- **There was no other business.**

**The next Board Meeting will take place in CAAB Offices on 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 2pm.**