



**Meeting of
Children Acts Advisory Board
Tuesday 28th October 2008
Phoenix House**

Minutes

- Present:** Jacinta Stewart (Chair)
Cathleen Callanan, Nuala Doherty, Michael Donnellan
Cathal Flynn, Phil Hanna, Charlie Hardy, Roger Killeen,
Finbarr Murphy, Dermot Stokes,
- Apologies:** Gerry O'Neill, Michelle Shannon,
- In Attendance:** Aidan Browne, Finbarr O'Leary, Jane Craig,
Robert Murphy, Clodagh Thorne,

Declaration of Interest in agenda items, by Board Members

- No conflict of interests declared.

1) Minutes

- The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed, agreed and subsequently signed by the Chairperson, Jacinta Stewart.

2) Matters Arising

- It was recommended by the sub-committee that the Guardian *ad litem* advice should be submitted to the Minister without further delay. The Board agreed with this recommendation.
- It was agreed that all Research Projects that would be likely to be concluded before the end of the 1st quarter of 2009 are to proceed as planned.

3) Chief Executive Report

The Chief Executive reported on the following topics:

- **National Conference**

A summary of the of CAAB's national conference held in Malahide on 15th & 16th October was given. The contribution of the staff and board members were acknowledged in particular Marion Martin and Fiona Mullen.

- **Special Care Criteria**
- **Rates Appeal Update**
- **CAAB Annual Report 2007**

The 2007 CAAB Annual Report was circulated to the Board members however as it has not yet been laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas, it is not available for public circulation.

- **Evidence to Practice**

It was mentioned that there has been good interest in the Evidence to Practice event being held in the Gresham 19th November and we expect approximately 200 attendees.

4) Subcommittee Reports

a) Finance & Audit

- The finance committee did not meet as scheduled as two committee members could not attend.
- The finance report was circulated and it was noted that the CAAB have spent approx. 66% of the revised budget to date.
- It is anticipated that CAAB would receive funding for at least the first quarter of 2009.

5) Government Decision

The Government decision to rationalise agencies across the public sector means that the Children Acts Advisory Board (CAAB) is to be subsumed into the Office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.

A meeting took place on Friday 24th October in the office of the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs. In attendance were Sylva Langford, Jacinta Stewart, Aidan Browne and Jane Craig and the following points were noted:

- The senior officials from the various relevant units in the Department of Health and Children will convene a meeting on the 6th of November to commence the process of implementing the government decisions. A further meeting has been arranged with Sylva Langford on the 10th of November, to obtain feedback.
- It has been agreed that the CAAB will continue its business as usual for the immediate future,
- The Board will remain in place until legislation is enacted to effect its dissolution,
- The OMCYA are cognisant of the need to retain the skills and resources developed by CAAB.

- Sylva Langford is keen that the process be moved along as quickly as possible.

6) AOB

- Following the Government decision it was decided to cancel the next meeting which was scheduled for November 25th and to have the next Board meeting on 16th December.
- It was suggested that meetings should be held every 6 weeks in the future this will be decided at the meeting in December.

The next Board Meeting will take place in CAAB Offices on 16th December at 2pm.