

**MINUTES OF THE
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, May 16, 2012 – 2:30 p.m. – John A. Moran Eye Center

Members Present:

Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Senate Chair
Rep. Paul Ray, House Chair
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove
Rep. Bradley M. Daw
Rep. Daniel McCay
Rep. Dean Sanpei
Rep. Evan J. Vickers

Members Absent:

Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. Stuart C. Reid
Sen. Luz Robles
Rep. Wayne A. Harper
Rep. Ronda Rudd Menlove
Rep. Christine F. Watkins

Staff Present:

Mr. Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Ms. RuthAnne Frost, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Lori Rammell, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Ray called the meeting to order at 2:53 p.m. Sen. Reid, Rep. Harper, and Rep. Watkins were excused from the meeting.

2. Obesity/Spark Program

Dr. John Ratey, Harvard University Professor and author of *Spark: The Revolutionary New Science of Exercise and the Brain*, presented a slide show that examined the effectiveness of exercise as an anti-depressant, then explained the chemistry behind that effect. He also presented data showing that improved academic scores among students were directly related to increased exercise. He advocates a "New P.E." in schools: it is less competitive, includes a wider range of activities, and involves smaller groups of one or two students at play. He explained how student participation in this "New P.E." at one particular school improved student behavior and resulted in fewer disciplinary incidents.

Chair Ray suggested that the committee give some thought to doing some sort of exercise program as a committee.

3. John A. Moran Eye Center — Special Briefing and Tour

Dr. Randall J. Olson, Chairman and CEO, John A. Moran Eye Center, welcomed the committee and public to the Moran Eye Center. He presented a slide show outlining the role and mission of the Moran Eye Center, including clinical care, community outreach, and medical student training. Dr. Olsen added, in reference to Dr. Ratey's remarks, that research has shown that exercise improves macular degeneration as well.

Ms. Jenny Wilson, Executive Director, Institutional Advancement, John A. Moran Eye Center, continued the discussion of Moran's vision and mission, reviewed board and faculty membership, and discussed Moran's international programs treating those with eye diseases.

Mr. Wayne Imbrescia, Executive Director, John A. Moran Eye Center, presented a slide show covering some of the history of the Moran Eye Center and its purpose in finding cures for blinding eye conditions. He outlined the eye center's relationship with the University of Utah.

Dr. Jeff Pettey, Ophthalmologist, John A. Moran Eye Center, gave an overview of ophthalmology and the education required to become an ophthalmologist. He made a distinction between ophthalmologists and optometrists, the first a medical doctor and surgeon, the latter not a medical doctor. He discussed the outreach services Moran Eye Center performs around the state of Utah, including cataract surgeries for uninsured patients.

Dr. David Peterson, President, Utah Ophthalmology Society and pediatric ophthalmologist, further discussed the distinction between ophthalmologists and optometrists, but emphasized their cooperation in treating eye patients. He pointed out that cataract surgery is the most frequently performed eye surgery in the country, and that macular degeneration and glaucoma are the two most common eye diseases. Dr. Peterson then took questions from the committee.

4. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. McCay moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Ray adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.