

Philadelphians urged to sound off on childhood obesity

by Claudia Johnson

PHILADELPHIA - In an effort to address an epidemic that defies a "quick fix," Shaping America's Youth has chosen Philadelphia to host its third national town meeting this Saturday, April 21, 2007, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Liacouras Center, Temple University. All interested citizens are urged to attend the forum to brainstorm solutions to the national health crisis. Free breakfast and lunch will be served to participants and parking and childcare are free as well.

To address the issues of childhood obesity organizers for the high-tech, grassroots town meetings are asking for hundreds of individuals from Philadelphia's diverse cross-section communities to sign up to participate in a day-long discussion. Previous SAY Town Meetings attracted as many as 1,000 participants in both Memphis and Dallas. Hundreds are likewise expected for the upcoming Philadelphia's meeting.

Dr. Lisa Hark, of Lafayette Hill, a nutrition expert, author, and host of the TLC television show, "Honey, We're Killing the Kids," is one of the local experts who is available for interviews about the town meeting. (See below.)

Shaping America's Youth (SAY) is a first-of-its-kind, public/private initiative designed to combine the efforts of numerous organizations and programs to create a "grassroots" plan for healthier children. SAY and its parent organization Shaping America's Health were chartered by the American Diabetes Association to address the prevention and management of America's weight crisis.

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