



PHILADELPHIA YOUTH
SPORTS COLLABORATIVE

1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
267.582.9466

Contacts:

Barbara Beck

bbeck@sage-communications.com

215-209-3076

Beth Devine

bdevine@pysc.org

267-582-9466

COLLABORATIVE ANNOUNCES PHILADELPHIA'S FIRST TASK FORCE ON SPORTS-BASED YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

*Public, private sector collaboration to explore using sports as a way to
help young people develop as students and citizens*

PHILADELPHIA— (October 3, 2017)—The [Philadelphia Youth Sports Collaborative](#), a nonprofit supporting youth sports organizations that use sports for social change, announced today the formation of the Philadelphia Task Force on Sports-Based Youth Development.

The Task Force's mission is to issue a report that analyzes the state of youth sports, physical activity, and positive development of Philadelphia's youth, and to make public policy recommendations on how to build a citywide system supporting sports-based youth development initiatives. The report, expected in June 2018, also will offer recommendations on how to create long-term funding streams to support such a system. Research shows that sports-based youth development fosters growth and development physically, academically, and socially.

"Sports are essential to the future of kids in our city," said Beth Devine, executive director of the Philadelphia Youth Sports Collaborative (PYSC). "And the bottom line is that, with the launch of this Task Force, PYSC will continue to play a critical role in developing ways to increase access to quality sports-based programs that foster positive development for our city's young people."

Devine added, "The Task Force is designed to build the partnerships between providers and the public and private sectors that will support universal access to quality programs for the 325,000 school-aged children throughout the city. We fervently believe that long-lasting social change can be achieved through kid-friendly sports programs."

Sports-based youth development programs—extracurricular programs that use a particular sport to help learning and life skill development in youth—are not new to Philadelphia. There are many existing programs that use the community youth development approach to create opportunities for children to connect with others and develop skills that allow them to contribute to their communities. But this is the first time an organization such as PYSC has formed a task force focused on increasing Philadelphia youth's access to sports, aligning various quality services, and identifying funding and resources for scaling and growth.

The Task Force report could have a significant impact beyond playing fields and basketball courts. National data indicates that sports-based youth development programs reduce youth violence, promote health, and inspire academic



1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
267.582.9466

PHILADELPHIA YOUTH
SPORTS COLLABORATIVE

success. These programs also help young people with social skills and risk reduction. Participating children are far more likely than their non-participating counterparts to be engaged in learning—and to have good school attendance records and increased levels of physical activity. In addition, they are less likely to be involved in or become victims of violence.

PYSC generated funding for the Task Force through public and private sources, including GlaxoSmithKline and the Poor Richard's Charitable Trust.

“We are excited to bring stakeholders together to develop a different kind of ‘big league’ sports system to the deserving kids in our city,” said Michael DiBerardinis, Managing Director of the City of Philadelphia. “The Task Force will explore the best ways to use sports as a hook to support academic achievement, character development, a healthy lifestyle, workforce mentoring, and community engagement. It can be a very powerful combination.”

The Task Force consists of members drawn from the senior ranks of government, business, health, higher education, professional and collegiate athletics, and social services. It plans to hold a series of meetings, information-gathering sessions and focus groups starting this month.

Co-chairs of the Task Force are DiBerardinis; Otis Hackney, Philadelphia's Chief Education Officer; and David Montgomery, Chairman, Philadelphia Phillies.

Other members of the Task Force are:

Cheryl Bettigole, MD Director, Chronic Disease Prevention, Director, Get Healthy Philly, City of Philadelphia Department of Health

Jim Britt, COO, Snider Hockey (retired)

Tom Caramanico, President, McCormick and Taylor

Vicki Ellis, Executive Director, Office of Strategic Partnerships, School District of Philadelphia

Sarah Gibbons, Director of Community Relations, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Kate Hagedorn, Director, Civic Affairs, Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce

Stephen Haug, Executive Director of Athletic Affairs, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Amy Hever, Executive Director, Community Relations, Sixers Youth Foundation & The Wilt Chamberlain Community Fund

Julie Hirshey, Director of Community Relations, Philadelphia Eagles

Kenny Holdsman, President/CEO, Philadelphia Youth Basketball

Gareth Jones, PhD, Professor, Temple University School of Sport, Tourism and Management

John Kelly IV, MD, Professor of Clinical Orthopedic Surgery, Penn Medicine



1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
267.582.9466

PHILADELPHIA YOUTH
SPORTS COLLABORATIVE

Terri Lipman PhD, Assistant Dean for Community Engagement, University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing

Betsy Longstreth, Board Secretary, Philadelphia Youth Sports Collaborative

James Lynch, Executive Director of Athletics, School District of Philadelphia

Becki Lynch, Manager, Community Partnerships, GlaxoSmithKline

Courtney McDade, Manager, Public Affairs, Independence Blue Cross

Donna O'Donnell, Vice President for Innovation Partnerships and Programs, Jefferson Innovation

Kathryn Ott-Lovell, Commissioner, Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation

Christine Piven, PhD, Chief of Staff, Community and Culture, City of Philadelphia

Ted Qualli, Executive Director, Police Athletic League

Neil Ravitz, Chief Operating Officer, Department of Orthopedics, Penn Medicine

Rachel Roberts, Team Leader, Youth Educational Social Services, Philadelphia Health Management Corp.

Alan Rosenberg, SVP, Chief of Staff, Chief Administrative Officer, Temple University Health System

Doug Vosik, Vice President of Marketing, Philadelphia Union

David Wilson, Deputy Managing Director, Community and Culture, City of Philadelphia

Eric Zillmer, Director of Athletics, Drexel University

About PYSC

The Philadelphia Youth Sports Collaborative is committed to supporting Philadelphia's sports-based youth development (SBYD) community at all levels - from the citywide system to the individual youth participants. Working as a convener in the SBYD sector, PYSC wants to strengthen and build capacity among not only the non-profit organizations that deliver programs, but also throughout the larger provider system that exists to develop and support this type of programming for Philadelphia's youth.

PYSC is committed to a strategic focus on the areas of member support, developing partnerships among SBYD stakeholders, building a research base to prove our impact, advocating on behalf of the SBYD sector, and working to drive resources into Philadelphia to support these efforts. We believe this work will support universal access to SBYD programming for Philadelphia's youth.