

Fermi senior center Leehna Ware displays a basketball trophy last week, honoring her for becoming the school's first 1,000 point scorer. For a complete recap of the game, the ceremony, and more photos, see Pages 22-23. (Photo by Richard Tanguay)

Current mentors use this program in any way which is special to the pair

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# Rep. Jarmoc, Enfield Community Health Center discuss dental care

By CHRIS PUTZ  
Staff Writer

State Representative Karen Jarmoc (D-Enfield), working with Community Health Center, Inc., is advocating for an expansion of mobile and permanent dental services in the north central Connecticut region in the upcoming year.

Jarmoc recently spoke at a meeting coordinated by Community Health Center, Inc. - which operates the Mary Lou Strom Primary Care Center in Enfield - to advocate and discuss increased access to preventive dental services for uninsured children and adults as well as HUSKY insured children in the area.

According to most recent HUSKY enrollment statistics, of the

1,463 Enfield children enrolled in HUSKY, only 33 percent are receiving preventive dental care. Those numbers for Suffield and Somers are 32 and 31 percent, respectively. Additionally, said Jarmoc, there is only one local dentist accepting HUSKY patients in Enfield to every 600 children enrolled in the program.

CHC, Inc has received a grant from the Connecticut Health Foundation to collaborate in regard to ways to increase access to oral health care in communities.

Jarmoc, who was recently appointed to serve as vice-chair of the legislature's Select Committee on Children maintains that she will work diligently this upcoming year to help the Community Health

Center establish permanent dental services for adults and children at their Enfield site.

"The Mary Lou Strom Primary Care Center has done an incredible job of reaching out in Enfield to provide mobile dental services and demonstrating a need for such care, for the past year," Jarmoc said. "It's necessary to take this program a step further,"

She, along with CHC, Inc., is hopeful that permanent dental care will be available at the agency's North Main Street location by late spring 2009.

According to CHC, Inc., its mobile dental team provides cleanings, fluoride, x-rays, sealants, and referrals for restorative care to all interested children in Enfield.

Currently, the program serves 11 schools in Enfield. During her first legislative term, Jarmoc was successful in obtaining a \$130,000 earmark in the state budget to establish the mobile dental program in town.

Jarmoc requested that the mobile program provide cleanings at the Enfield Senior Center during school vacation weeks. The program has

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for this September's 9/11 ceremonies. (Photo by Chris Putz)

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now been successfully offering cleanings at the center with the support of grant funding.

Jarmoc said that she is also hope-

ful that the mobile dental program will be able to soon provide services to towns surrounding Enfield.

