

Courtney's Focus on Health Care

By KAREN JARMOC

Former State Rep., D-Enfield

Congressman Joe Courtney's visit last week to Enfield to talk about health care resulted in a notable turnout from seniors and local health care providers. Courtney brought Christie L. Hager, Regional Director for the US Department of Health and Human Services to the Enfield Senior Center and the Mary Lou Strom Primary Care Center in town.

While at the senior center, Courtney and Hager discussed the Affordable Care Act ("ACA") and provided resources to seniors to learn more about what the ACA changes mean, including which private insurance plans, public programs and community services are

available to them. According to Hager, the ACA provides seniors with less expensive prescription drugs by allowing for a 50 percent discount when buying brand-name products covered by Medicare Part D, to those who qualify. Medicare also now covers certain preventive services, like mammograms or colonoscopies for free and seniors can get a free annual wellness visit. To learn more go to, www.HealthCare.gov or email Hager at r1.ord@hhs.gov.

I appreciated an invitation from Courtney to listen to the discussion at the senior center and to then participate in a visit to the Mary Lou Strom Primary Care Center, located on

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Congressman Joe Courtney with Representatives Betsy Ritter and Jack Thompson and members of the CHC staff in Enfield last week. (Submitted photo)

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is chair of ard of the orth Central he is also e Asnuntuck College and a board Connecticut y. She may (0) 749-0431 @aol.com.

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North Main Street. While serving in the state legislature, I was pleased to have initiated talks with Mark Masseli, President/CEO of Community Health Center, Inc. ("CHC") - which operates Enfield's site along with 12 other locations across Connecticut - to locate in Enfield. Last week's visit, which was also attended by Rep. Kathleen Tallarita, certainly demonstrates that such talks nearly five years ago have resulted in an impressive quality health care facility in our community today.

Since coming to Enfield, the CHC has provided primary medical care to more than

3,000 patients. Additionally, CHC's mobile dental program is serving students in 33 schools in five school districts across Connecticut including Windsor, Windsor Locks, East Windsor and all of Enfield's public schools. Last year, 650 Enfield students received dental cleanings during school through CHC's mobile program, meaning that students are not missing a half-day of school for a dental visit and working parents do not miss work time. Enfield's CHC site has two primary care physicians on staff and the center guarantees that once a patient calls for an appointment, they will be

seen within three days for care. Enfield's CHC has recently teamed up with the "Healthy Enfield" initiative to offer Recess Rocks! The program engages local children, in grades 2 through 8 in addressing childhood obesity.

To learn more about CHC go to www.chc1.com.

Karen Jarmoc is chair of the advisory board of the United Way of North Central Connecticut. She is also board chair of the Asnuntuck Community College Foundation, Inc. and a board member of the Connecticut Airport Authority. She may be reached at (860) 749-0431 or jarmocenfield@aol.com.