

Mental health unit will bear Connelly's name

A newly renovated building at the Staten Island Developmental Center in Willowbrook will be formally named the Elizabeth A. Connelly Program Center during 1:30 p.m. ceremonies next Thursday, Dr. Ella A. Curry, center director announced today.

The program center, honoring the Staten Island assemblywoman who chairs the Assembly's Mental Health Committee, will be used to teach basic living skills to 120 of the developmental center's most severely disabled clients. Dr. Curry said the center's staff will use a "multi-sensory" approach to teach personal hygiene, sensory stimula-

tion, self-help and motor coordination.

"Assemblywoman Connelly has worked hard for many years for the clients of SIDC," Dr. Curry said, "and I think it is time we give her an official acknowledgment and thank you."

Mrs. Connelly called the re-naming "an

honor," but added, "Of course, it's far more important that we are now going to have a Center for the intensive training of these disabled people. As far as the disabled are concerned, nothing is more important than giving them as much self-reliance as possible."