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WIA

GTPDD Anniversaries



The GTPDD office is centrally located in Oktibbeha County in the Starkville Industrial Park.

From the Director...



Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson
Executive Director

Those of you who know me personally also know my pet concern. For those of you who don't know, let me educate you. My pet, ongoing, longtime, never-wavering, forever, heartfelt, compelling concern has been the well-being of the elderly.

That said, it should serve as no surprise that I will jump on any opportunity that vaguely presents itself to add programs to the GTPDD that will enhance and enrich the lives of our senior citizens.

Census Data for 2010 showed that the 65+ population grew at a faster rate than the total population! The number of individuals aged 85 years and older increased, and the 90-94 aged population had the greatest percent of increase!

These are folks who served in, or lost loved ones to, 4 wars. These are folks whose indomitable spirits survived the Great Depression and other economic downturns, who led productive lives, who may have worked more than one job to provide for families, who believed it was their duty to serve in their churches and communities without complaint, who inspired and raised patriotic children. These are folks who "put money by for hard times." These are folks who spent their lives "doing for" others.

And, now, for many of these folks, the money "put by" has dwindled and retirement funds don't meet ordinary living expenses, much less cover increased health care costs. Also, limited mobility and other physical impairments preclude the ease of what

once were routine tasks (driving, medical appointments, grocery shopping, preparing meals, washing dishes, cleaning the bathroom) that now are difficult or impossible to accomplish.

In my thinking, they have earned the right for society to “do for” them. Gratefully, it has been a privilege of the GTPDD to serve as a vehicle for alleviating many of the necessary and/or stressful activities that are required for successful daily functioning for this older population.

Stay tuned, readers! As stated earlier, I am constantly seeking ways/options/alternatives to reduce or eliminate hardships of the older population, to make their lives as pleasant as possible. On the horizon are prospective additional services toward this goal. I will keep you posted.

In the meantime, if you have a referral for any of our aging services (**meals, respite, transportation, housekeeping, nurse/social worker case management**), call 662-324-4650 and ask for the appropriate department.

Happy Spring!



Aging. . .

Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan

A provision of the Affordable Care Act is the immediate availability of insurance to individuals with pre-existing health conditions. This insurance is currently available through a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The federal pre-existing condition insurance plan program (**PCIP**) will continue until the state-run option is ready in 2014.

To qualify for coverage:

- You must be a United States citizen or reside here legally.
- You must be without health coverage for at least the last six months before you apply.
- You must have a pre-existing condition or have been denied coverage because of your health condition.

PCIP covers a broad range of health benefits including primary and specialty care, hospital care, and prescription drugs. As a plan participant, you will pay a monthly premium, as well as other costs. Your plan will have a deductible of \$1,000 - \$3,000 and doctor visit co-pay of \$25. You will also be responsible for 20% of the cost of any other covered benefits. Drug benefits may have a separate deductible; drug copayments range from \$4 to \$40 for most prescription drugs. These plans have a combined out-of-pocket limit of not more than \$7000 per year, or even less if you use only network providers, as specified by **PCIP**.

NOTE: **PCIP** is available to all age groups. Rates are based on age, not health condition.

For information on plans in your state, call 1-866-717-5826 or visit <https://www.pcip.gov/StatePlan.html>.

Celebrating Older Americans Month in May

Since May is Older Americans Month, it's a perfect time to celebrate the achievements and accomplishments of older Americans in the community. In 1963 President Kennedy dedicated the month of May as a time to recognize and pay tribute to folks over 60. It's a good opportunity to let older adults tell about their life journeys that teach timeless lessons of courage, endurance and love.

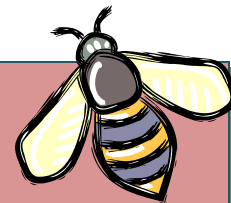
Participation in social and physical activities accompanied by a curious mindset provides definite benefits physically and cognitively. While some people seem to choose a much less active lifestyle punctuated by focus on physical frailties, others choose to most often ignore the inevitable aches and pains that come with age. Those who choose to stay involved benefit from their engagement in countless ways.

The theme for Older Americans Month 2012 is *"Never Too Old to Play!"* This theme recognizes the value that older adults continue to bring to their communities through spirited participation in social and faith groups, service organizations, family, and other activities. Through their participation, these active senior adults are positive examples for younger folks of how to experience retirement living based on choices of healthy living and a rewarding future.

Sixty-five year old folks can expect to live an average of almost twenty more years. Many retirees will live in good health and energy for their twenty years. Finding purposeful niches in which to enjoy life can make all the difference in quality daily routines. Rethinking aging might include rehauling thinking so that play now becomes an acceptable way to spend time for those who have worked hard for so many years.

To celebrate Older Americans Month, the Senior Enrichment Center and Agency On Aging, along with Starkville Parks and Recreation, will sponsor a Fun Day in the Park on Tuesday, May 22nd at McKee Park on Lynn Lane in Starkville, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. There will be food, fun, games, and music. Everyone should dress comfortably and bring a lawn chair. For more information call Sharon Duke at 662-324-7860, ext. 1117.

Take the *sting* out of bites!



- A bee leaves behind a stinger and venom sac. Try to remove it quickly. Wasps don't leave stingers in the skin, which means they can sting more than once.
- Carefully wash the area with soap and water two to three times daily until the skin is healed.
- Apply an ice pack wrapped in a cloth or a cold, wet washcloth for a few minutes following the sting.
- For pain and itching, give or take an over-the-counter oral antihistamine if your doctor says it's OK; follow dosage instructions.
- You could also apply a corticosteroid cream or calamine lotion to the area.
- For a sting anywhere in the mouth, see a health-care provider. Stings in mouth membranes can quickly cause swelling that may block airways.
- Get medical help right away if you notice any of the following symptoms (which could mean a serious or potentially life-threatening allergic reaction): wheezing or difficulty breathing; tight throat or chest; swelling lips, tongue, or face; dizziness or fainting; or nausea or vomiting.

Source: www.kidshhealth.org

Loans...

Featured Business...



We are the Southeast's largest retailer of spas, billiards, portable buildings, carports, trailers, above ground pools, tanning beds and truck accessories.

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3904 Hwy. 45 North

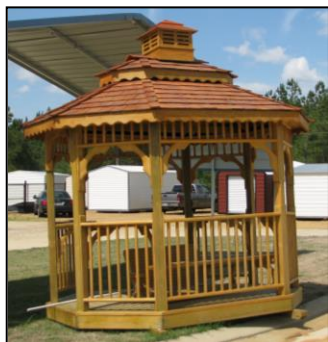
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Golden Triangle Planning & Development District, Inc.

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We carry a full line of truck accessories: tool boxes, vent visors, programmers, bug shields, grill guards, bumper replacements, winches, bed covers, chrome and more--everything you need for your truck! H & H can install lift kits, air bags, helper springs and step bars. Also available are spray-in bedliners, gooseneck and 5th wheel hitches with trailer wiring.

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For information
regarding loans for
your business,
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Loan Officer at
662-324-7860,
ext. 1133.

Submitted by
Jimmy Bosin.



Bridge to Independence

GOLDEN TRIANGLE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

Vicki Clay, RN
vclay@gtpdd.com
P. O. Box 828
106 Miley Road
Starkville, MS 39760
662-324-7860, ext. 1138
Fax: 662-320-2015
www.gtpdd.com

Purpose Statement: Offering an array of services designed to assist B2I beneficiaries who choose this pathway to support community living within the Golden Triangle area and to remain in compliance with all Division of Medicaid regulations.

Golden Triangle Planning & Development District is a Mississippi Division of Medicaid Bridge to Independence (B2I) provider. Our trained Community Navigator will help residents of nursing homes plan for a transition from a facility to a home in the community.

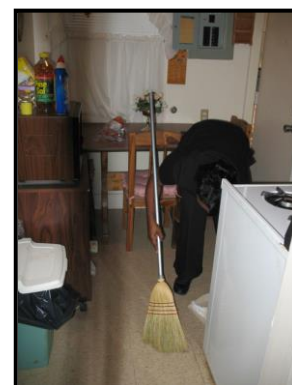
Our company provides B2I services to older adults (65+), and persons with physical disabilities.

We provide the following B2I services for 365 days after your transition:

- Transportation
- Crisis/Safety Planning
- Life Skills Training
- Caregiver Support (Peer-to-Peer and Individual Therapy)
- Peer Support
- Transition Care Management
- Attendant Care

We also provide one-time financial assistance in the following areas:

- Security & Utility Deposits
- Household Furnishings & Goods
- Moving Expenses
- Environmental Accessibility Adaptation



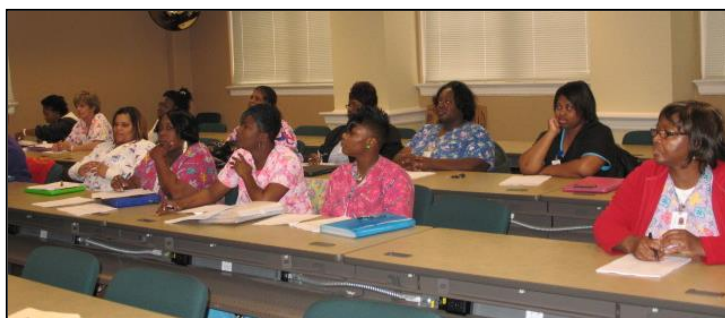
The Golden Triangle PDD has been a provider to the Division of Medicaid since 1994 with the Elderly & Disabled Waiver Program. In addition, the GTPDD has increased the Medicaid programs of Homemaker and In-Home Respite. Throughout 17 years of service, GTPDD has maintained full compliance with all requirements set forth by the Division of Medicaid.

Medicaid Waiver & Homemaker...



Fairview Baptist 55+ Group of Columbus invited Charlotte Caldwell, Director of Homemaker/Respite Services, and Vicki Clay, RN Supervisor of the Elderly & Disabled Waiver Program, to attend its lunch meeting on January 31 and provide information on the various GTPDD services that improve the lives of elderly and impaired community residents. After lunch and fellowship, a lively discussion ensued with questions and answers from the 45 attendees.

55+



Juanice Hayes, leader of the Mt. Zion 55+ Group in New Hope, invited Vicki Clay, RN Supervisor of the Elderly & Disabled Waiver Program and Charlotte Caldwell, Director of Homemaker/Respite Services to attend its lunch meeting on March 20. Keeping individuals informed of the different GTPDD services is essential in the communities. Care and service are the mission of the District.

Medicaid Waiver Case Managers

Choctaw

Tina Gill, RN
Rachel Embry, LSW

Lowndes #4

Christy Massey, RN
Emile Hamilton, LSW

Oktibbeha #3

Helen Smith, RN
Beverly Baker, LSW

Clay

Mitzi Phelps, RN
Stephanie Cannon, LSW

Noxubee #1

Jana Peterson, RN
Lauren Smith, LSW

Oktibbeha #4

Charlotte Dowd, RN
Jennifer Bridges, LSW

Lowndes #1

Libby Wansley, RN
Janice Miller, LSW

Noxubee #2

Tammy Castle, RN
Pamela Triplett, LSW

Webster

Jean Jolly, RN
Chris Bingham, LSW

Lowndes #2

Carmen Ellis, RN
Lesa Wilson, LSW

Oktibbeha #1

Tina McWhorter, RN
Lynn Herndon, LSW

Winston

Kim Mills, RN
Suzy Winstead, LSW

Lowndes #3

Michelle Harris, RN
Angelia Sansing, LSW

Oktibbeha #2

Stacey Elkins, RN
Jenny Grantham, LSW

GRADS. . .

A total of 16 GTPDD Homemakers completed 40 hours of classroom instruction March 23, 2012. Certificates were presented by GTPDD/AAA Director Bobby Gann to the following: Latasha Carr



(Lowndes), Courtney Carr (Lowndes), Rhonda Wallace (Lowndes), Sarah Harkins (Lowndes), LaCheryl Dora (Noxubee), Rosie Taylor (Lowndes), Sanquene Hogan (Oktibbeha), Jeanette Coleman (Winston), Sheraya Buckingham (Clay), Vivian Evans (Oktibbeha), Minnie Hodge (Clay), Shirley Irons (Lowndes), Natasha Bridges (Lowndes), Sharon Seals (Clay), Lillie Roberson (Winston), Barbara Coleman (Lowndes).



The curriculum was presented by Charlotte Caldwell and Phyllis Flake, Directors of GTPDD Homemaker/ Respite Service. GTPDD is grateful to the many volunteers in the community who assisted in this endeavor by presenting information to these employees during the training sessions.

Planning...

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Clay County received funding for its 2011 HOME grant from Mississippi Development Authority under the homeowner rehabilitation/reconstruction category. This grant will allow the County to provide grants to four (4) homeowners located throughout Clay County for demolition and reconstruction of their houses. These houses were preselected in the grant application, submitted in September, based on household size, income, condition of house and other MDA required factors. At present, this project is in the environmental review phase and will possibly be ready for bid by late Spring, with construction scheduled for summer, 2012.

The City of Macon and the Town of Crawford were funded under the 2010 HOME program for reconstruction of substandard housing units. Contracts have been awarded on both projects and construction is scheduled to begin soon.

The final house in the Winston County 2009 HOME project is now under construction and should be completed soon.

**"You're born an original.
Don't die a copy." -John
Macon**

FY2012 CDBG Applications Due May 14-18, 2012

Local units of government should plan immediately for the upcoming FY12 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application process. CDBG Public Facilities applications will be accepted by the Mississippi Development Authority on May 14 - 18, 2012.

The FY2012 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Final Statement outlining the application process for this year will soon be released by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA), at which time specific program guidelines will be available. The minimum threshold requirements are that at least 51% of the project beneficiaries are of low and moderate income and applicants must have no open Public Facility (Regular or Small Government), Emergency/Urgent Needs, or Self Help grants. A significant decrease in funding is available for local units of government, as this year's allocation from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is only \$23,838,889.

It is important for governmental entities to remember that the Community Services Division of MDA must receive an audit-reporting package within nine (9) months following the end of the fiscal year. The Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133 require a single audit for state and local governments, which expend \$500,000 or more in federal awards for that year. Entities that expend less than \$500,000 a year in federal awards are exempt from federal audit requirements for that year, but an acceptable Funding Certification Form must be submitted to MDA. Failure to provide this information to the Mississippi Development Authority in a timely manner will **disqualify** an applicant from submitting a CDBG application during the fiscal year. Any governmental entity needing assistance with this matter should contact the PDD.

Planning cont' . . .

PLANNING FOR BETTER WATER



Staff of the Golden Triangle PDD worked with the Lowndes County Board of Supervisors, the East Lowndes Water Association, consulting engineer for the project and concerned citizens about the

quality of water in a southeastern portion of the county that is currently not served by a water association. The meetings were held at the National Guard Armory and were attended by the residents of the area that had expressed a concern about their water, which is available only through individual wells. The Lowndes County Board of Supervisors has agreed to submit a Community Development Block Grant application for funding for this area to be added to the East Lowndes Water Association.



Final Work on Stark Aerospace Infrastructure Improvements is Nearing Completion

Drainage improvements for the Stark Aerospace company in the Aerospace Park in Lowndes County are nearing completion. The project was made possible through a Katrina Community Development Block Grant from the Mississippi Development Authority. The original grant, funded for a total of \$1,900,000 and constructed an access road, water and sewer improvements. There was also a matching Developmental Infrastructure Grant from the Mississippi Development Authority for \$167,500. When the first phase of the project was complete, there were enough funds left from both grants to construct the drainage improvements (pictured).



WIA *(Workforce Investment Act) . . .*

C2C- As Easy as 1-2-3!

The Golden Triangle WIA staff has completed the first nine months of the new youth program, Counseling to Career, and is greatly pleased with the results! As of March 31st eighty-one (81) out-of-school youth, ages 21 years and younger, have participated in the C2C services in the counties of Choctaw, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston.

For these youth getting involved was as easy as 1-2-3.

- Step 1: Complete an application and provide required documentation to prove eligibility for the program.
- Step 2: Attend Smart Work Ethics Training which meets for three hours once a week for seven weeks.
- Step 3: Participate in the paid work experience phase of the program where salary and workers' comp insurance are paid through grant monies.

Comments from C2C participants:

Sheryl Patton – During my time in C2C I have learned many skills to help me in different aspects of my job. Some of these include communication skills, having a good attitude, and how to create a professional image. After completing the program I hope to be placed in a medical environment as office assistant and plan to continue my education in the medical field.

Tyronda Lucious - In this program I learned that getting and keeping a job is harder than I had been told. Also, I learned how to deal with anger and stress with other people including customers, friends and family. I learned to manage my time and keep a job. Having a job, going

to school and just daily living can be a combination that needs help. These activities can be stressful but to this day I still have my job, am currently enrolled in college and enjoying life as the days go by. I would like to thank my teacher, Ms. Jennifer Howell, my parents, my family and my best friend Kya for supporting me when I felt like giving up.

Cheyenne Thompson – I have found the C2C program to be a very positive influence on my life. I have learned various things such as: how to present myself appropriately for many different jobs, how to communicate well with others, and how to better understand the people I am working with on a professional level as well as on a personal level. The WIA staff has been willing to listen to me, support me, and motivate me as I make this transition in my life.

There are only five available slots left in Webster/Oktibbeha counties for this funding year. If you know youth who are out-of-school, under the age of 21, in need of workforce training, and motivated to continue their education or gain employment, ask them to call Jennifer Howell, Case Manager, @ 662-324-7860 ext. 1155 or Mitzi Lawrence, WIA Programs Director @ 662-324-7860 ext. 1128. Last class scheduled to begin Tuesday, April 10th.



Staff Anniversaries

Staff members that have served at least 5 years at the GTPDD.

January

Phylis Benson	18 years
Linda Dora	06 years
Jessie Evans	13 years
Jean Jolly	11 years
Vera Jones	08 years
Tricia Jones	18 years
Rosie Spencer	09 years
Liz Wyatt	12 years

February

Elizabeth Bishop	07 years
George Crawford	34 years
Lorene Cummins	08 years
Jenny Grantham	08 years
Michelle Harris	09 years
Lynn Herndon	06 years
Ida Spann	07 years
Mary Ann Thompson	07 years
Libby Wansley	07 years
Queen Wilson	05 years

March

Claudine Campbell	09 years
Jimmy Cole	18 years
Evelyn Dickerson	16 years
Sylvia Fair	09 years
Stephanie Fenton	08 years
Bobby Gann	38 years
Ethel Goss	09 years
Dixie Higginbotham	06 years
Debra Hill	09 years
Jennifer Howell	05 years
Barbara Ray	13 years



Golden Triangle Planning & Development District, Inc.

*Post Office Box 828
Starkville, MS 39760*