



# Golden Triangle Planning & Development District, Inc.

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*In Memoria*

**DON POSEY**

GTPDD Board Member  
2008-2019



Rupert L.  
"Rudy"  
Johnson  
Executive  
Director

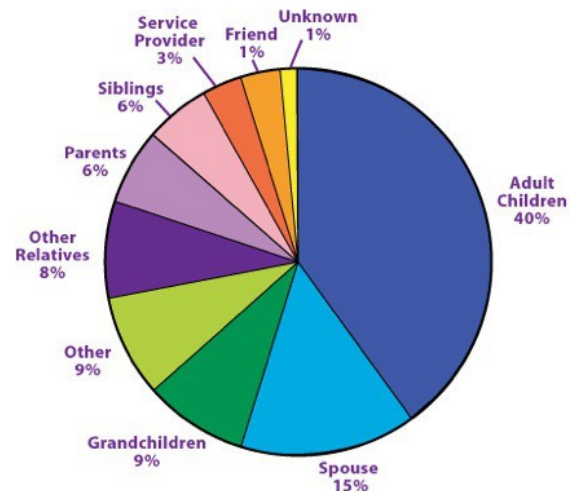
## From the Director. . . . .

The Golden Triangle Planning & Development District is now offering a new service to the citizens in The GT District known as Adult Protective Services (APS). The mission of this program is to protect vulnerable persons whose safety and protection may be adversely affected by abuse, neglect, self-neglect or exploitation; raise public awareness; and educate mandated reporters of their reporting responsibilities. Once a call/complaint has been reported to the hotline, an investigator is assigned and the investigation begins with following steps:

- ⇒ Initial face-to-face visit with the alleged victim alone
- ⇒ APS Worker observations/Visual Exam
- ⇒ Alleged Perpetrator Interview
- ⇒ Physical Home Environment/  
Observation of physical premises
- ⇒ Interview other household members
- ⇒ Collateral Contacts
- ⇒ Taking photos, audio and/or video recordings
- ⇒ Consent to Disclose
- ⇒ Document

To report abuse please contact the Vulnerable Person Abuse Hotline at 1-844-437-6282 or 601-359-4577.

**Breakdown of Confirmed Perpetrators**



National Association of Adult Protective Services Administrators  
National Center on Elder Abuse



# Welcome to Medicare Visit

## ***“Let’s Make a Plan”***

New Medicare beneficiaries are sometimes confused by the terminology and timing of services provided under Medicare. If you are new to Medicare, you may be wondering what the **“Welcome to Medicare”** preventative visit is all about.

The **Welcome to Medicare** visit is not the same as a routine physical exam or annual Medicare Wellness visit. The **Welcome to Medicare** visit is an introduction to Medicare and focuses on disease prevention and detection to help beneficiaries live a healthier life. The **Welcome to Medicare** visit is a one-time-only visit covered by Medicare Part B. This means no copay or coinsurance for this visit. You must take advantage of this visit within the first twelve months of your initial enrollment into Medicare.

During this preventive visit your doctor will discuss disease education and prevention. He/she will review your medical history, family history, current health condition and prescriptions. Below is a list of information the doctor will be interested in and may want to discuss:

- Past medical/surgical history, illness, hospital stays, allergies and injuries
- Current medications including supplements and vitamins
- Depressions and safety screening
- Family history
- History of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drug use
- Diet
- Exercise

This visit will also include:

- Measurements for:
  - ◊ Height
  - ◊ Weight
  - ◊ Blood pressure
  - ◊ Body mass index
- Simple vision test
- A written plan for screenings, shots and other preventative services you may need
- Your physician may also provide information and/or discuss an advance directive

Your doctor should give you checklist of free screenings and preventive services that you need. He/she will sometimes order additional tests or screenings you may be charged for during this visit as a convenience to you. If you do not want these additional screenings to be done at this time, be sure to let your physician know you are not prepared to do this at this time.

Be sure to prepare for this visit even if it is being done by your current physician. This is important to make sure nothing is missed in planning for your future care. Take a copy of your medical records, immunization records, and learn as much as you can about your family’s medical history. Be sure to take a full list of your medications and supplements, the strength, and how often you take them. This information helps your doctor to know what screenings you need to get and what to watch for in the future.



P.E.O.—Philanthropic Educational Organization



Pottery Class



Crochet, Knitting & Jewelry



Flo-Art Painting



Terra Firma Officers



Donation of Dog-Bone puzzle to Columbus-Lowndes Humane Society



Line Dancing for United Way



North Mississippi Rural Legal Services



Golden Triangle Senior Enrichment Center—Columbus

**Join the Fun!!**



## About the Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program

The Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program provides home and community-based services to individuals over the age of 21 whom, but for the provision of such services, would require the level of care provided in a nursing home facility. Beneficiaries of this waiver must qualify for Medicaid as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or meet the income and resource eligibility requirements for income level up to 300% of the SSI Federal Benefit Rate and meet medical criteria of the program, with a score of 50.

The Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program is administered directly by the Home and Community Based Services Division (HCBS). Case Management services are provided by the Planning and Development Districts. The case management team is composed of a registered nurse and a licensed social worker who are responsible for identifying, screening and completing an assessment on individuals in need of at-home services. Upon approval of the HCBS, the case managers can refer qualified individuals to the following services: adult day care, home-delivered meals, personal care services, non-emergency escorted transportation, in-home respite, and extended home health visits.

The Golden Triangle Planning and Development District's Case Management Services are provided to all counties in our district, including: Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston County.

Michelle Harris is the RN Supervisor for the Medicaid Waiver Program. Current Case Management team members are:

### **Choctaw**

Tina Gill, RN  
Rachel Embry, LSW

### **Clay**

Mitzi Phelps, RN  
Lesia Wilson, LSW

### **Lowndes #1**

Brandy Clark, RN  
Alexandra Conwill

### **Lowndes #2**

Cindy Reese, RN  
Tennie Simpson, LSW

### **Lowndes #3**

Lindsey Marsh, RN  
Angelia Sansing, LSW

### **Lowndes #4**

Jami Hubbard, RN  
Megan Aucoin, LSW

### **Noxubee #1**

Cheney Kelly, RN  
Jennifer Bridges, LSW

### **Noxubee #2**

Tammy Castle, RN  
Lynn Herndon, LSW

### **Oktibbeha #1**

Tina McWhorter, RN  
Katherine Steinman, LSW

### **Oktibbeha #2**

Stacy Elkins, RN  
Jennifer Grantham, LSW

### **Oktibbeha #3**

Ella Pogue, RN  
Beverly Baker, LSW

### **Oktibbeha #4**

Krystal Taylor, RN  
Jessie Lewis, LSW

### **Webster**

Neshay Daniels, RN  
Lisa Woods, LSW

### **Winston**

Kim Mills, RN  
Lauren Smith, LSW

Anyone interested in this program, or simply needing additional information, should call the GTPDD Medicaid Waiver office at 662-320-2002..



## Without Change There Would Be No Butterflies!

People often avoid change; but when change involves providing for youth in the Golden Triangle area in a beneficial way, the WIOA staff is ready and willing to take on the challenge.

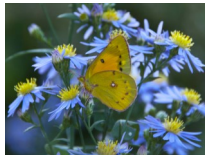
The WIOA staff continues to administer the Gateway Out-of-School Program which serves 16 – 24 year-old youth in Choctaw, Oktibbeha, Webster, and Winston counties through work ethics training and internships; and as of January 2019 a new program was added.

GTPDD was asked to pilot a WIOA In-School Gateway Program in Choctaw, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston counties. The target population was junior and senior secondary education students enrolled in a local career and technology center. These centers include Choctaw Career and Technology Center, Webster County Career and Technology Center, Winston-Louisville Career and Technology Center and Millsaps Career Center. The WIOA staff worked hand-in-hand with the administration and counselors to develop the program to best fit the needs of the area. Students were given the opportunity to complete an application for one of ten available slots at each facility. Eligibility was determined and students were picked to participate in work ethics training and a 60 hour paid internship where they would work in businesses within their local community. As part of their training, participant were given the WorkKeys assessment to determine their employability skills level.

As of March 30, forty-two (42) in-school participants have completed work ethics training. Three (3) of these participants found employment on their own. The remaining thirty-nine (39) are being provided a paid internship where they are practicing the skills learned in the classroom, gaining work experience for developing a resume, and earning a paycheck (many for the first time). GTPDD is proud to announce that many of these youth have been offered part-time jobs at the end of their internship. GTPDD hopes to continue this in-school program so that more deserving secondary students may receive its benefits.

At this time the WIOA staff continues to recruit 16 – 24 year-old youth for the Out-of-School Gateway Program. If you know of youth seeking employment and/or guidance in continuing their education, contact Mitzi Lawrence @ 662-324-5007.

(EMCC will continue to serve out-of-school youth of Clay, Lowndes and Noxubee.)



## April is Fair Housing Month

### History of Fair Housing

*"The enactment of the federal Fair Housing Act on April 11, 1968 came only after a long and difficult journey."*



On April 11, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which was meant as a follow-up to the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The 1968 act expanded on previous acts and prohibited discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing based on race, religion, national origin, sex, (and as amended) handicap and family status. Title VIII of the Act is also known as the Fair Housing Act (of 1968).

The enactment of the federal Fair Housing Act on April 11, 1968 came only after a long and difficult journey. From 1966-1967, Congress regularly considered the fair housing bill, but failed to garner a strong enough majority for its passage. However, when the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968, President Lyndon Johnson utilized this national tragedy to urge for the bill's speedy Congressional approval. Since the 1966 open housing marches in Chicago, Dr. King's name had been closely associated with the fair housing legislation. President Johnson viewed the Act as a fitting memorial to the man's life work, and wished to have the Act passed prior to Dr. King's funeral in Atlanta.

Another significant issue during this time period was the growing casualty list from Vietnam. The deaths in Vietnam fell heaviest upon young, poor African-American and Hispanic infantrymen. However, on the home front, these men's families could not purchase or rent homes in certain residential developments on account of their race or national origin. Specialized organizations like the NAACP, the GI Forum and the National Committee Against Discrimination In Housing lobbied hard for the Senate to pass the Fair Housing Act and remedy this inequity. Senators Edward Brooke and Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts argued deeply for the passage of this legislation. In particular, Senator Brooke, the first African-

American ever to be elected to the Senate by popular vote, spoke personally of his return from World War II and inability to provide a home of his choice for his new family because of his race.

With the cities rioting after Dr. King's assassination, and destruction mounting in every part of the United States, the words of President Johnson and Congressional leaders rang the Bell of Reason for the House of Representatives, who subsequently passed the Fair Housing Act. Without debate, the Senate followed the House in its passage of the Act, which President Johnson then signed into law.

The power to appoint the first officials administering the Act fell upon President Johnson's successor, Richard Nixon. President Nixon tapped then Governor of Michigan, George Romney, for the post of Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. While serving as Governor, Secretary Romney had successfully campaigned for ratification of a state constitutional provision that prohibited discrimination in housing. President Nixon also appointed Samuel Simmons as the first Assistant Secretary for Equal Housing Opportunity.

When April 1969 arrived, HUD could not wait to celebrate the Act's 1st Anniversary. Within that inaugural year, HUD completed the Title VIII Field Operations Handbook, and instituted a formalized complaint process. In truly festive fashion, HUD hosted a gala event in the Grand Ballroom of New York's Plaza Hotel. From across the nation, advocates and politicians shared in this marvelous evening, including one of the organizations that started it all -- the National Committee Against Discrimination In Housing.

In subsequent years, the tradition of celebrating Fair Housing Month grew larger and larger. Governors began to issue proclamations that designated April as "Fair Housing Month," and schools across the country sponsored poster and essay contests that focused upon fair housing issues. Regional winners from these contests often enjoyed trips to Washington, DC for events with HUD and their Congressional representatives.

Under former Secretaries James T. Lynn and Carla Hills, with the cooperation of the National Association of Homebuilders, National Association of Realtors, and the American Advertising Council these groups adopted fair housing as their theme and provided "free" billboard space throughout the nation. These large 20-foot by 14-foot billboards placed the fair housing message in neighborhoods, industrial centers, agrarian regions and urban cores. Every region also had its own celebrations, meetings, dinners, contests and radio-television shows that featured HUD, state and private fair housing experts and officials. These celebrations continue the spirit behind the original passage of the Act, and are remembered fondly by those who were there from the beginning.

(Source: HUD)



EP, short for Elberta Phillips. Well, what can we say:

- Been here since the beginning
- Always willing to help
- Websters Dictionary's best friend

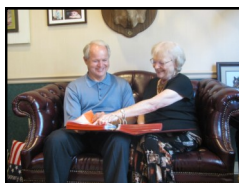
EP has been employed with the GTPDD for 27 years. She began her time in November of 1992. Although her title has never changed, her "duties as assigned" has varied over the years.

EP's Titles Thru the Ages:

- Chief Financial Officer (CFO)
- Clothing Police
- Confidant
- Friend
- Cook
- Mama

Oh, the knowledge and work ethic she has passed shown. Thank you, EP, for ALL you have done for the GTPDD and the staff members who have had the blessing of knowing you! We love you and wish you a wonderful retirement!

Retired







## ARC

(Appalachia Regional Commission) is a regional economic development agency that represents a partnership of federal, state and local government. ARC invests in activities that address five goals:

- ◆ Economic Opportunities
- ◆ Ready Workforce
- ◆ Critical Infrastructure
- ◆ Natural & Cultural Assets
- ◆ Leadership & Community Capacity

Each year ARC provides funding for several hundred investments in the Appalachian Region, in areas such as business development, education and job training, telecommunications, infrastructure, community development, housing and transportation. These projects create thousands of new jobs; improve local water and sewer systems; increase school readiness; expand access to health care; assist local communities with strategic planning; and provide technical and managerial assistance to emerging businesses.

The annual ARC Conference was held in Washington, DC on March 17-19, 2019. GTPDD staff attended the conference to be further their knowledge on all available funding for the GTPDD counties and municipalities.

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## Commodity Supplemental Food Program

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) was established to provide nutritious commodities to help State and local agencies supplement food resources of the low-income elderly. Through local agencies, each participant receives a monthly package of commodities, based on food package guide rates developed by the United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services (FNS). Food packages include such nutritious foods as milk, cereal, juices, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meat and other non-meat protein items, and grain products such as pasta or rice. Participants also receive nutrition education. CSFP is designed to serve individuals whose income and circumstances make them especially vulnerable to malnutrition.

The Mississippi Food Network (MFN) administers the CSFP under an agreement with the State Department of Health/WIC Program to receive, re-package and distribute the donated USDA supplemental foods through local charitable/non-profit Agencies in the authorized counties.

Golden Triangle Planning and Development District is the local site in Oktibbeha and Lowndes County to distribute Commodity Supplemental Food Boxes (CSFP). At the present time, GTPDD distributes 225 boxes in Oktibbeha County and 170 boxes in Lowndes County each month to low-income seniors age 60 years of age and older. Currently there are 86 individuals on the Waiting List in both counties.

All participants must be 60 years of age and older, meet the CSFP household income eligibility guidelines and must reside in the selected CSFP county. Income guidelines are updated yearly by USDA and are based on the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

For more information on the CSFP program or to speak to someone about filling out an application for a Commodity Supplemental Food Box, please call (662) 324-1173 and speak with Melody or Amy.

Phylis Benson	25 years
Jennifer Bridges	07 years
Janice Davis	11 years
Robert Dill	11 years
Jessie Evans	20 years
Jacqueline Jackson	10 years
Tricia Jones	25 years
Jamie Lang	06 years
Magdalena Morris	23 years

Shelby Beam	05 years
Bobby Gann	45 years
Ethel Goss	16 years
Carla Guyton	10 years
Rochelle Moore	08 years
Jennifer Odom	12 years
Barbara Ray	20 years
Tekela Taylor	11 years

Jacqueline Allen	08 years
Lisa Coleman	09 years
George Crawford	41 years
Lorene Cummins	15 years
Vivian Evans	09 years
Jennifer Gibson	07 years
Jenny Grantham	15 years
Sarah Harkins	08 years
Michelle Harris	16 years
Lynn Herndon	13 years
Wanda Rush	07 years
Scott Stewart	11 years

### Staff Anniversaries

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