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## From the Director..



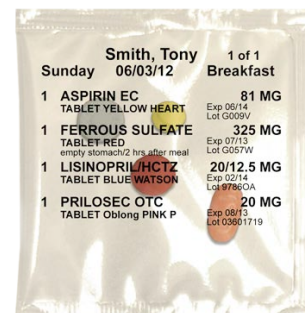
Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson  
Executive Director

## MEDICATION MANAGEMENT. . .

Recognizing the importance of patient medication compliance, Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, Inc. (GTPDD) developed a closed-door pharmacy geared to the elderly, disabled, and homebound population in the seven-county area served by the District. The goal of this Medication Management Program is to improve patient overall health through medication adherence and compliance. Health improvements, through compliance and education, reduce hospital readmission and extend the time patients are able to stay in their homes and live independently, with a better quality of life.

The Medication Management Program utilizes the Parata Pass Strip System. With this system each patient's maintenance prescriptions are sealed in easy tear-off packages that include all medications to be taken together. The packages are clearly labeled with the patient's name, date, and time of each dose, medication name and pill description. The individual dose packaging allows for ease of patient/caregiver management of medication regimens for complex conditions and reduces health issues due to skipped doses. Each tear-off package can contain up to 10 medications.

Golden Triangle Pharmacy began serving patients in October 2013. Of the 162 patients currently served, most have been referred by the nurse case managers in the GTPDD Medicaid



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

Waiver Program when medication compliance has been an issue.

When a referral is received by the pharmacy, the Health Information Technician (HIT) contacts the patient for a face-to-face visit in the patient's home. The patient is educated about the program and its services and benefits. If a patient chooses to enroll in the program, the technician gets a current list of medications for review by the pharmacist. The pharmacist then checks for drug interactions or medication duplication and confers with the transferring pharmacy and the patient's doctor(s). Medication prescriptions are filled, labeled and packaged in 28-day supply boxes. All medications are synced into this cycle so that patients receive all medications once monthly. Two to three days after the initial delivery, each patient receives a follow-up call from the pharmacist to ensure that he/she understands the program and is comfortable with the packaging system.

Each month following the initial shipment, the patient is contacted by the pharmacy technician one week prior to the scheduled delivery date to check on patient general welfare, note any doctor visits and change in medication needs. These calls serve as a relationship building effort to provide a more intimate level of service than what is provided by traditional retail pharmacies. Changes and adjustments are made to a patient's records prior to packaging medications for the next medication delivery. The HIT then contacts the patient to arrange delivery of medications. Upon delivery of the new supply of medications, the HIT educates the patient about any changes, as well as looks at the previous box of medication to make certain that the patient is complying with the dosing regimen. If needed, the HIT will review any concern or questions the patient might have concerning medication and doctor's orders. If any questions arise that the HIT is not equipped to handle, the pharmacist/pharmacy technician is contacted for a conference call with the patient to confirm that all questions are answered correctly and immediately.

The GTPDD Pharmacy is involved in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Program (CMS) and Miraxa. Both programs rate health plans and prescription drug programs publicly (also known as Star ratings) which help make improvements in adherence and compliance in an effort to improve a patient's quality of life.

During the few short months the program has been in existence, positive results are already obvious. By following his packaging and taking medications as prescribed with no missed doses, one diabetic patient went to his doctor for routine blood work and saw his A1C result decrease to acceptable levels. Since its inception, only one enrollee has been admitted to a nursing home or hospital.



Tiffany Gilliland, Health  
Information Technician

Anna Lancaster,  
Pharmacist

Andrea Scott,  
Pharmacy Technician



**GOLDEN TRIANGLE  
Planning and  
Development District, Inc.**

*(662)320-2011 - phone  
(662)320-2004 - fax*

## *Aging...*

In December of 2012, the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District implemented a new program called Bridge to Independence. The mission of this program is to transition clients who are currently institutionalized in nursing homes, intermediate care facilities and state hospitals back into the community. The Bridge to Independence Navigator's role is to help facilitate the process by utilizing local and state resources. To date, the program has transitioned four clients back into the locations of their choice. Currently, Golden Triangle Planning and Development is in the process of transitioning four more clients into their own homes. Anyone interested in finding out additional information regarding this program can contact Bobby Gann at (662) 324-4650 ext. 1104 or B2I Coordinator, Amanda Carden at (662)324-4650 ext. 1114.

## *Sr. Enrichment-Starkville...*

They may be a tad less well-known than the famous singing duo. But Donnie and Marie Mestas sure make others' hearts sing by the ways they share their time and talents! After completing a fine career as teachers in the Utah Public School System, the couple retired to Starkville to be near their daughter.

The new residents immediately looked for opportunities to help them become a part of the community and their delightful personalities opened doors for them. They found their church home at St. Joseph where Donnie helps with the First Saturday food pantry. They enjoy MSU girls' basketball and

SU Lyceum events. The couple hosts square dancing every Monday night at the Sportsplex. Donnie is always ready to lend a hand where a man's strong help is needed at the Senior Enrichment Center in the Center's vegetable garden or elsewhere. Marie is the talented and gracious hostess of "Stitching with Marie" every Wednesday at the Senior Center. Marie's stitching talent is multi-faceted – sewing, knitting, crocheting, quilting, cross-stitching, needlepoint – if it's done with any kind of needle, Marie knows how to stitch it! She teaches, tutors, and assists stitchers every Wednesday with whatever project they are working on at the time, and she is always producing a work of beauty of her own. The congenial, lively, fun group talks, laughs, snacks, and gets to know each other while stitching beautiful creations all at the same time!

The couple is a great example of today's retirees who have completed their careers and then found a place where they could enjoy their retirement years with community involvement and fun. Starkville is fortunate that the Mestases chose to become a part of the community!



# *Loans. . .* **SMALL BUSINESS LOANS**

## **GOLDEN TRIANGLE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.**

Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, Inc. (GTPDD) encourages economic development and job creation through a variety of small business financing programs. These programs are designed to help create new jobs by providing a portion of the funding for the expansion of an existing business or the opening of a new business. These small business financing programs are intended to work with and not to replace existing commercial financing that is available through local banks.

Loan Programs	Targeted Businesses	Maximum Loan Amount	Terms/Interest Rate	Funds can be used for:	Portion of Project Financed
Appalachian Regional Commission	Small Business	\$100,000.00	Up to 15 years 4.00% fixed	Fixed Assets, Inventory, Working Capital	50%
Economic Development Administration	Small Business	\$225,000.00	Up to 15 years 4.00% fixed	Fixed Assets, Inventory, Working Capital	33%
Minority Business Enterprise	Minority Owned Small Business	\$ 35,000.00	Up to 5 years 7.00% fixed	Fixed Assets, Inventory, Working Capital	100%
Minority Business Enterprise	Minority Owned Small Business	\$250,000.00	Up to 15 years 3.25% fixed	Fixed Assets, Inventory, Working Capital	50%
Small Business Assistance	Small Business	\$250,000.00	Up to 15 years 4.75% fixed	Fixed Assets, Inventory, Working Capital	50%

**NOTE:** Interest rates are subject to change-----rates effective as of May 31, 2014.

Each program has specific eligibility criteria and conditions. GTPDD will help the business owner determine the most appropriate financing program.

Contact your local bank to discuss how participation with GTPDD would provide benefits to your business.

Questions regarding the available small business financing programs may be addressed to:

**Jimmy Cole, Loan Officer**  
**Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 828**  
**106 Miley Drive**  
**Starkville, Mississippi 39760-0828**  
**Phone: (662) 320-2000**  
**Extension: 1133**

## Medicaid Waiver...

The Elderly and Disabled Medicaid Waiver Program is a Long-Term Care Program which offers services in the homes of clients in order to prevent or delay institutional placement.

### Services Offered:

- Case Management
- Home Delivered Meals
- Personal Care Services
- In-Home Respite
- Expanded Home Health (including Home Health Aide Services)
- Adult Day Care

### Qualifications:

- Be 21 years of age or older;
- Score 50 or above on the Preadmission Screening Tool, which assesses the client's ability to care for themselves in their environment; and
- Qualify for Long-Term Care Medicaid (income less than \$2,094 per month and resources less than \$4,000).

Fourteen Case Management teams currently serve the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District (GTPDD). Each team consists of a registered nurse and a licensed social worker who visit the client on a monthly basis to provide, monitor and coordinate the services that are offered through this program. The GTPDD serves clients in Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster, and Winston counties. 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  
Stephanie Cannon, LSW

#### Lowndes #1

Libby Wansley, RN  
Janice Miller, LSW

#### Lowndes #2

Cindy Reese, RN  
Lesa Wilson, LSW

#### Lowndes #3

Lindsey Marsh, RN  
Angelia Sansing, LSW

#### Lowndes #4

Christy Massey, RN  
Audi Strain, LSW

#### Noxubee #1

Jana Peterson, RN  
Lauren Smith, LSW

#### Noxubee #2

Tammy Castle, RN  
Emilie Hamilton, LSW

#### Oktibbeha #1

Tina McWhorter, RN  
Lynn Herndon, LSW

#### Oktibbeha #2

Stacy Elkins, RN  
Jennifer Grantham, LSW

#### Oktibbeha #3

Helen Smith, RN  
Beverly Baker, LSW

#### Oktibbeha #4

Charlotte Dowd, RN  
Jennifer Bridges, LSW

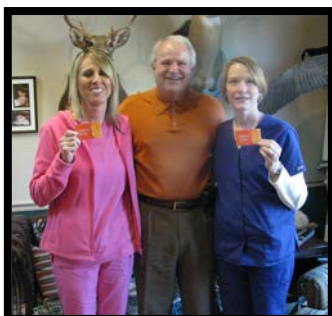
#### Webster

Lynette Hunt, RN

#### Winston

Kim Mills, RN  
Jessica Henry, LSW

If you would like more information on the Elderly and Disabled Medicaid Waiver, please call 662-324-7860, option #3.



Thank you Oktibbeha Team #1, Tina McWhorter & Lynn Herndon, for adding an additional twenty-nine (29) referrals to the GTPDD – Pharmacy enrollment!!  
Way to Go Girls!

## *Planning. . .*

### **FY2014 CDBG Public Facilities Applications Submitted**

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) has received, from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), an allocation of \$24,504,655 for the FY2014 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This CDBG program provides funding for public infrastructure improvements with water and sewer needs as the greatest priority. 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. Recently GTPDD staff prepared and submitted ten (10) Public Facilities applications that are currently under review. MDA received 45 applications in the Regular Public Facilities competition requesting \$17,819,116 from an allocation of \$4,750,000. Seventy-seven applications were received in the Small Government category, requesting \$29,531,686 from an allocation of \$6,956,071.

#### **CDBG PUBLIC FACILITIES APPLICATIONS**

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Funds Requested</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>
Town of Artesia	Sewer & Drainage Improvements	\$450,000	
Town of Brooksville	Sewer Improvements	\$428,700	
Town of Maben	Sewer Improvements	\$450,000	
Town of Mathiston	Sewer Improvements	\$450,000	
Town of Sturgis	Wastewater Improvements	\$450,000	
City of Macon	Sewer Improvements	\$450,000	
City of West Point	Sewer Improvements	\$300,000	\$300,000-local
Clay County	Siloam Water Association	\$426,000	\$75,000 - ARC \$92,771- local

## **Housing Update.....**



The Clay County HOME Project has its last house under construction. Within the next few months, the homeowner will be able to enjoy a summer afternoon on the porch. This home will complete the 2011 Clay County HOME Project, and allow Clay to apply for the next round of funding.

The Lowndes County Board of Supervisors continues to make progress on its 2012 HOME Grant. The last two homes are under construction. The contractor hopes to have them completed by the end of summer.



The Webster County Board of Supervisors recently received bids for its 2012 HOME Project. All bids received fell within the budgeted amount. A notice to proceed has been issued on all three homes in this project. GTPDD will have updates as the construction progresses.

The City of Starkville has received a Notice to Proceed for the remaining house in its HOME Project. The contractor will begin the demolition of the existing home within the next couple of weeks.

Oktibbeha County received environmental clearance on its 2012 HOME Project. This project can now proceed with the replacement of four dilapidated homes and one dilapidated mobile home.

## Planning cont'...

### ARC Federal Co-Chair Visits Mississippi

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Federal Co-Chair, Earl F. Gohl, and his Chief of Staff, Guy Land, visited Mississippi on May 12, 2014. The visit included a tour of the destruction caused by the April 28<sup>th</sup> tornado in Louisville, an update on Downtown Revitalization in Starkville with community leaders, and a tour of Division of Manufacturing Technology & Engineering at EMCC. During each stop, Mr. Gohl and Mr. Land were briefed on the progress that has been made as a result of ARC's investment.



#### Staff Anniversaries

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

#### APRIL

Sherri Fowler	09 Years
Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson	24 Years
Janet Macon	12 Years
Keisha Warren	10 Years

#### MAY

Queenzella Gibson	09 Years
Katie Gray	06 Years
Shirley Jones	07 Years
Shanta Newby	06 Years
Shantita Robertson	05 Years
Earniestine Robinson	13 Years
Toby Sanford	10 Years
Kishina Shirley	05 Years
Teshia Taylor	07 Years
Clara Tippet	05 Years
Lesa Wilson	10 Years

#### JUNE

La'Ketta Cooper	07 Years
Mary Cox	07 Years
Lena Davis	08 Years
Sharon Duke	08 Years
Phyllis Flake	08 Years
Janice Houston	07 Years
Minnie Lindsey	10 Years
Tina McWhorter	14 Years
Kenny Orr	12 Years
Debra Prishmont	05 Years
Eyvonne Swanigan	09 Years
Mary W. Thompson	09 Years
Judy Trantum	05 Years
Shirley Welch	06 Years

*WIA*  
*(Workforce Investment Act) . . .*

**WIA 2014 FUNDING RENEWAL**

**SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME = RENEWED FUNDING!** Golden Triangle PDD has been awarded 2014 funding to continue administering the WIA Counseling to Career program in Choctaw, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston counties.

**What is the Counseling to Career (C2C) Program?**

The C2C program is a federally funded youth training program administered by agencies in the Mississippi Partnership Workforce area. Participants meet with a career counselor for seven work ethics training sessions where they learn a variety of skills that should help them obtain and maintain jobs. Upon completion of the seven sessions, eligible youth are placed in jobs, hopefully in their career interest field, within their local communities. Salaries and workers' comp insurance are paid through grant funds.

**Who qualifies for the C2C program?**

To participate in the program a youth must be:

- 21 years or younger
- Not currently attending school
- In compliance with federal certification requirements
- Self motivated and desiring employment, continued education or military enlistment

**When is the best time to enroll in the program?**

The best time to enroll is within six months of obtaining a GED or high school diploma, but anyone twenty-one years or younger who is out of school is eligible and encouraged to apply.

**How can a youth get more information about the program?**

Interested youth may call the following WIA staff for an application or to get more information about the program:

Choctaw and Winston counties:	Teresa @ 662-324-7860 ext. 1125
Oktibbeha and Webster counties:	Donna @ 662-324-7860 ext. 1115
WIA Program Director:	Mitzi @ 662-324-7860 ext. 1128

## *WIA cont' . . .*

### URBAN YOUTH CORPS

The Golden Triangle WIA Department has embarked on a new endeavor - administering the Urban Youth Corps Program for the City of Starkville. In early April the Golden Triangle's Planning Department submitted an application to the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) on behalf of the City of Starkville. On April 22, the Mississippi Transportation Commission (MTC) approved up to \$35,000 in Federal SAFETEA-LU Funds. The WIA department immediately began working with city officials to administer this work program.

Interest in the program was overwhelming as 170 youth applied for 21 positions available through the City of Starkville. After careful consideration, 32 youth were interviewed, 26 were invited to attend work ethics training, and 21 started to work June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Training was held Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> through Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> in the Golden Triangle Conference Room. Participants received work ethics training including such topics as appearance and dress, worksite expectations, problem solving, conflict resolution, time management, interview skills, CPR and first aid. Mitzi Lawrence, WIA Programs Director stated, "The WIA staff was impressed with this group of young people. They presented themselves in a professional manner and evidenced positive attitudes. I think this is just a first step in very successful careers for most of these individuals."

Upon completion of training the youth met with their worksite supervisors for orientation on their individual jobs. They began work on Monday, June 2. Work is planned to continue through the end of July so as you venture out into the Starkville area, take note of these young people. Whether they are sprucing up the landscape, painting curbs and handicapped parking places, picking up litter, clearing ditch banks, identifying blockages in the sewer system or manning a desk in an office, tell them how much you appreciate the job they are doing to make the Starkville community a better place to live. These young people represent the future!

#### **Landscaping Department**

Antavious Robertson, April Powers,  
Joshua Reed-Sims & Keivin Ware



#### **City Hall**

Shelby Steadman, Tatiyana Wilson,  
Raterrius Gee & Shalisa Ingram



## *WIA cont' . . .*

### **Street Department**

Erick Reed, Stanley Smith, Javian Mobley & Johnny Smith



### **Sanitation Department**

Gregory Lowery, Javarest Gray, Ravonte Ganty & Julvian Cattledge  
April Sudduth, Mitchell Young & Pat Duck



### **Water Department**

Avonte' Amos & Josh Poe



**SENIOR FARMERS MARKET.** . . The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program is a cooperative effort of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce and the Golden Triangle Area Agency on Aging. The project is two-fold: 1) increase the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables by senior citizens and 2) increase the use and awareness of farmers' markets.

Seniors 60 years of age and older, with certain income qualifications, are eligible to receive a one-time benefit in the form of a \$28 voucher from the Golden Triangle Area Agency on Aging. This voucher can be used at **authorized** local farmers' markets to buy fresh fruits and vegetables grown by local farmers.

When buying local produce, you are supporting the local economy and your local farmer.

Vouchers are available at the Golden Triangle Area Agency on Aging.

For more information please call Bobby Gann at 662-320-2000, extension 1104.

# Golden Triangle Planning & Development District, Inc.

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July, 2014						
Starkville Senior Enrichment Calendar of Events						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1 1pm - Game Day	2 10am - Stitching	3 1pm - Game Day	4	5
6	7 1pm - Party Bridge	8 1pm - Game Day	9 10am - Stitching	10 1pm - Game Day	11 1pm - Party Bridge	12
13	14 1pm - Party Bridge	15 1pm - Game Day	16 10am - Stitching	17 1pm - Game Day	18 1pm - Party Bridge	19
20	21 1pm - Party Bridge 1pm - Party Bridge	22 1pm - Game Day	23 10am - Stitching	24 1pm - Game Day	25 1pm - Party Bridge 1pm - Party Bridge	26
27	28 1pm - Party Bridge	29 1pm - Game Day	30 10am - Stitching	31	1	2

*Golden Triangle Planning & Development District, Inc.*

*Post Office Box 828*

*Starkville, MS 39760*