



# Golden Triangle Planning & Development District, Inc.

## MML/PDD

Annual Meeting  
August 22nd  
11:30 a.m.  
Golden Triangle  
PDD Office  
Located at  
106 Miley Drive  
Starkville, MS 39759

### Inside this issue:

Building Dedication 2-3

Medicaid Waiver 3

WIOA 4

Medicare Open Enrollment 4

Medicaid Waiver 5

Farmer's Market 6

Staff Anniversaries 6

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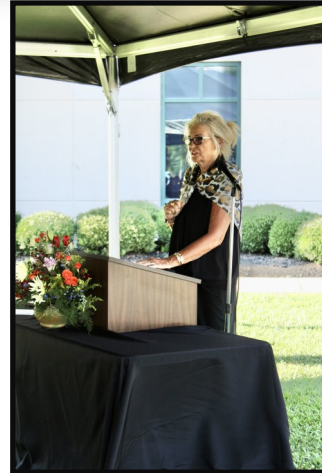
April 1, 1990, April Fool's Day, Rudy Johnson began his adventure with the Golden Triangle PDD.

June 23, 2022, the GTPDD building was dedicated to Mr. Johnson in honor of his service and leadership.

Following are a few statistics of the growth that has taken place in the past 32 years:

|                 | <u>FY 1990</u> | <u>FY 2021</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| District Assets | \$1,840,000    | \$17,036,391   |
| Revenues        | \$1,356,241    | \$11,220,298   |
| Salaries        | \$ 200,000     | \$ 4,529,590   |
| Employees       | 9              | 153            |



**RUPERT L. "RUDY" JOHNSON**  
BUILDING

Speakers Senator Bart Williams, Dr. Rick Young & Yvonne Laird spoke and congratulated Mr. Johnson on his endurance and unwilling efforts to build the GTPDD into such an outstanding institute.







Family, friends & GTPDD Board Members celebrate the dedication!

## GOOD NEWS!!!

GTPDD is awarded funding to continue the Gateway job training program for in-school youth in Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston counties for the PY 22 program year! Area Youth will have the opportunity to attend essential job skills training, be placed in a paid internship, receive individual guidance and support from a Career Counselor, and, when desired, the opportunity to earn a Career Readiness Certificate.

The PY 21 program year ends June 30<sup>th</sup> and once again has proven rewarding for the youth, as well as local businesses who took advantage of Gateway services. During the 2021-2022 school year ninety -two (92) new area youth participated in the program. Eighty-two (82) of these accepted job placements where salary and workers comp, totaling over \$60,000, were paid through WIOA funds. If history repeats itself, many of these will receive job offers from their current internship employers. WIOA staff continue to work with the youth as they seek employment or continue their education.

During the upcoming school year, other area youth will have this opportunity. The target population for the Gateway Program is juniors and seniors currently enrolled in high school who have a desire to learn essential job skills and enter the local workforce under the guidance, support, and funding of this program. If you know a youth who meet these criteria, tell them about this chance to develop job marketability and enrich their lives. They too can learn skills for employment success, earn money for their futures, and receive support and services to reach future goals.

For information on the WIOA Gateway Program, call Mitzi Lawrence at 662-324-5007.



## Medicare Open Enrollment Appointments Coming Soon!!!

We have received many calls about appointments for Medicare part D open enrollment. Appointments will be taken beginning in **September**. To make an appointment call 662-324-7860, and you will be directed to the appropriate person to schedule a time that is convenient for you. This year we will be conducting some face-to-face information sessions in September to inform you about Medicare Part D Open Enrollment. This will help you better understand the process in choosing a Medicare Part D plan. The information sessions are still in the planning stage so watch the local newspaper for dates, times and locations. This information will also be available on our website [www.gtpdd.com](http://www.gtpdd.com).

# Home and Community Based Elderly and Disabled Waiver Program

Through participation with the State of MS Division of Medicaid, GTPDD provides home and community-based services to individuals who are at risk or would require the level of care found in a nursing facility called the Elderly & Disabled Medicaid Waiver Program.

To qualify for this service, the following components are required:

1. Beneficiaries must be 21 years of age or older;
2. Medicaid eligible
3. Require the same level of care as someone applying for admission to a nursing facility.

Services under this program include: case management, personal care services, in-home respite and/or institutional respite services, adult day care, expanded home health visits, transitional care, and home-delivered meals. All costs for services are reimbursable to an approved provider and all services must be approved by the Division of Medicaid.

This program includes the following counties: Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston. A registered nurse and a licensed social worker visit the client on a monthly basis. The registered nurse and licensed social worker, working together as a professional team, must conduct the initial, then yearly assessment to assure that the client qualifies for the program.

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

**Choctaw**

Tina Gill, RN  
Kaylee Hunt, LSW

**Clay**

Mitzi Phelps, RN  
Lesa Wilson, LSW

**Lowndes #1**

Leah Agnew, RN  
Jessica Rodgers, LSW

**Lowndes #2**

Cindy Reese, RN  
Tennie Simpson, LSW

**Lowndes #3**

Lindsey Livingston, RN  
Angelia Sansing, LSW

**Lowndes #4**

Jami Hubbard, RN

**Noxubee #1**

Rachel Unruh, RN  
Jennifer Bridges, LSW

**Noxubee #2**

Tammy Castle, RN  
Kallie Hubbard, LSW

**Oktibbeha #1**

Tina McWhorter, RN  
Alyssa Harris, LSW

**Oktibbeha #2**

Stacy Elkins, RN  
Jennifer Grantham, LSW

**Oktibbeha #3**

Helen Morgan, RN  
Christina Bland, LSW

**Oktibbeha #4**

Krystal Taylor, RN  
Megan Aucoin, LSW

**Webster**

Sydney Thompson, RN  
Lisa Woods, LSW

**Winston**

Kim Mills, RN  
Lauren Smith, LSW

Anyone interested in this program or would like additional information should contact the Medicaid Waiver office at 662-320-2003.

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We're on the  
Web:  
[www.gtpdd.com](http://www.gtpdd.com)

**Water** is our source of life; make it your beverage of choice. Get moving; adapt a purposeful exercise routine to improve or maintain health. Aim for 150 minutes or more of exercise per week or 30 minutes per day.



## Farmers Market Nutrition Program



Seniors, 60 years of age and older, with certain income qualifications, are eligible to receive a one-time benefit in the form of vouchers from the Golden Triangle Area Agency on Aging to shop at authorized local farmers markets. The vouchers are used to buy fresh fruits and vegetables grown by local farmers.

The purpose of the project is to increase the consumption of fresh fruits and vegetable by senior adults and increase the awareness of farmers markets. When buying local produce, you are supporting the local economy and your local farmer.

Local authorized farmers markets are located in Columbus, Starkville and West Point. Program participants will be able to redeem vouchers at an authorized farmers market through November.

For more information please call at 662-324-1173. Vouchers are available now!

## 2022 County Advisory Meetings!!

| COUNTY    | DATE                  | TIME       | PLACE                                       |
|-----------|-----------------------|------------|---|
| CHOCTAW   | July 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 10:30 a.m. | BOS Boardroom-Courthouse                    |
| CLAY      | July 8 <sup>th</sup>  | 10:30 a.m. | Courthouse<br>Crtroom 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor |
| LOWNDES   | July 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 11:00 a.m. | Gardner Blvd Bldg                           |
| NOXUBEE   | July 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 9:00 a.m.  | Civic Center                                |
| OKTIBBEHA | July 6 <sup>th</sup>  | 8:15 a.m.  | Courthouse<br>Sup. Bdroom                   |
| WEBSTER   | July 19 <sup>th</sup> | 9:00 a.m.  | Courthouse                                  |
| WINSTON   | July 19 <sup>th</sup> | 1:00 p.m.  | 1st floor OLD Crt-room in Crthouse          |

### APRIL

|                          |          |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Catherine Dyson          | 10 years |
| Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson | 32 Years |
| Janet Macon              | 20 Years |
| Wendy Murphree           | 17 Years |
| Keisha Warren            | 18 Years |
| Gertrue Weatherspoon     | 08 Years |

### MAY

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Queenzella Gibson   | 16 Years |
| Earnestine Robinson | 20 Years |
| Toby Sanford        | 17 Years |
| Latasha Tallie      | 09 Years |
| Teshia Taylor       | 14 Years |
| Clara Tippet        | 12 Years |
| Lesa Wilson         | 17 Years |

### Staff Anniversaries

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

### JUNE

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Lena Davis      | 15 Years |
| Dana Dawkins    | 07 Years |
| Sharon Duke     | 15 Years |
| Tina Gill       | 10 Years |
| Minnie Lindsay  | 17 Years |
| Tina McWhorter  | 21 Years |
| Kenny Orr       | 19 Years |
| Debra Prishmont | 12 Years |
| Tennie Simpson  | 05 Years |
| Sheila Winters  | 10 Years |