

GOLDEN TRIANGLE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

Director's Message:

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Resolution of Thanks and Appreciation to Robert "Bob" Boykin

Whereas, Robert "Bob" Boykin served on the Board of Directors for the Golden Triangle Planning and Development District for twenty-one years beginning in July, 2003; and

Whereas, during his tenure Bob has always been mindful of the needs of the citizens in Macon, Noxubee County, as well as our seven-county district; and

Whereas, Mr. Boykin has provided outstanding leadership and guidance to the District as a law enforcement officer, an alderman, a Mayor and a PDD board member; and

Whereas, Bob faithfully and with honor, integrity and great distinction served as President of Golden Triangle Planning and Development Board of Directors for ten years; and

Whereas, Bob has decided to move on to the next stage of his life and is ready to enjoy his retirement; Therefore, the Board of Directors of Golden Triangle Planning and Development District, on behalf of



*Robert "Bob" Boykin
and Rupert L. "Rudy"
Johnson*

the officers, staff, and citizens of the District, formally acknowledges Bob Boykin for his many years of service and extends its profound appreciation for his many labors and many thanks for a job well done, and wishes him well in all future endeavors.

Adopted the 18th day of July 2024 by the Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled meeting in Starkville, Mississippi.

2024-2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Choctaw County:

Greg Fondren
Jimmy Oliver**
Chris McIntire
John Shumaker*

Clay County:

Floyd McKee
Luke Lummus*
Shelton Deanes
R.B. Davis**

Lowndes County:

Leroy Brooks
Mattie Humphries
Jeff Smith
Ralph McLain*

Noxubee County:

Landis Mickens*
Ernie Jones
Bruce Brooks
Brian Shimmel

Oktibbeha County:

Steven Woodruff**
Sharon Livingston
Pattie Little
Marvell Howard*

Webster County:

Paul Crowley*
Doug Burgess
Curtis Morris
Michael Kolb

Winston County:

Jimmy Lovorn
Luke Parkes
Gloria Turnipseed*
Ronnie Flake

Officer**

Executive Committee Member*

Revised 07/2024

WIOA GATEWAY PROGRAM

Thank you for your
Eagerness to teach
And
Care for our young people,
Helping to
Educate them and to be
Responsible, respectable people.

Director Mitzi Lawrence, 662-324-5007

Counselor Gina Bishop, 662-324-7586

Counselor Myra Halford, 662-324-7932

Retirement is something that most people look forward to. Anxious to be relieved from the stress and demands of the job, they dream of carefree days. That is not the case for the Gateway Career counselors. According to these teachers, their genuine love for teaching and students keeps them active in their local communities: teaching, supporting and guiding young people to become productive citizens and future leaders. Read to learn about the teacher in your area. When you have the opportunity, thank them for giving their time and heart to help your local young people.

The WIOA Gateway In-School Program is available to high school students in Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Winston and Webster counties. Participants receive six hours of essential job skills training before being placed in a paid internship in their local community. Each participant has a career counselor who works with them to help them reach their career goal, whether that be continued education/training, employment or military enlistment. Golden Triangle Planning & Development District is an Equal Opportunity Organization. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request for individuals with disabilities.

WIOA GATEWAY PROGRAM: STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

GINA BISHOP - CHOCTAW, NOXUBEE AND WINSTON

Gina Bishop is a graduate of Weir High School. She attended Wood Junior College and Mississippi State University where she graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's in mathematics education.

Her first year of teaching experience was gained at Durant High School during the 1992-1993 school year. At the end of that year, she was given the opportunity to return home to Choctaw County, where she would spend the next 31 years loving and educating children.

Her teaching career led her from one end of Choctaw County to the other. She had the privilege of teaching at Weir Attendance Center, French Camp Elementary School and the newly consolidated Choctaw County High School.

After 23 years of teaching mathematics, she was hired at the Choctaw Career and Technology Center as the student services coordinator. She remained in that position until she retired in May 2024.

Upon retirement from Choctaw County School District, she was hired as a career counselor with the GTPDD.

Bishop said she is excited for the new career opportunity.



Gina Bishop

“I have never wanted to do anything else in my life other than teach. I am thankful to be in a position where I can continue to make a difference in the lives of young people,” she said. “Sometimes all young people need is someone to encourage them, believe in them and help them reach their potential. My hope at the end of each and every day is that all of my students know that they are loved, and that I have done my very best to help them become successful citizens.”

MYRA HALFORD - CLAY, LOWNDES, OKTIBBEHA AND WEBSTER

Myra Halford is an honor graduate from Mathiston High School. She attended Wood Junior College and Mississippi University for Women before transferring to Mississippi State University where she graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's in elementary education.

After graduation, she began her teaching career at Ackerman Elementary School. She taught third through fifth grades during her 15 years there. She was instrumental in helping teachers implement the problem-based learning teaching method in their classrooms.

She always had a love for biology, so when given the opportunity to teach biology courses at the high school level, she went back to MSU to get certified in secondary biology. She transferred from Ackerman Elementary to Ackerman High School where she taught ninth through twelfth grade biology courses until her retirement in 2017.

Soon after retirement, she began working with the Gateway Program. She is thankful for the opportunity to continue working with young people. She is now in her eighth year of investing in the lives of students through the Gateway Program and continues to enjoy her work.

She said being a counselor has been beneficial in helping students prepare for their future.

“Helping mold and shape students’ lives, being a means of support for them and seeing their successes through the Gateway Program has been a meaningful experience for me,” she said. There is no greater fulfillment in life than to know that you have made a difference in the lives of others. Students reaching out to me, thanking me for my help and telling me their own success stories truly make it all worthwhile.”



Myra Halford

UPDATES AND REMINDERS

UTILITY SERVICES ONLINE PAYMENT PORTAL

The GTPDD utility services department is proud to announce that water and solid waste billing and payments are now easier than ever for our customers. Through our portal, you can view your utility bill, make one-time payments and set up recurring payments all in one place.

By scanning the QR code below or visiting www.gtpddbills.com, you can set up an account with your email, choose your utility provider and provide your account number and the last name or street address on your account to begin paying your bill.



Medicare Part D Open Enrollment will be Oct. 15-Dec. 7. If you're a Medicare beneficiary and would like to evaluate your drug plan for next year, you will need to schedule an appointment with us.

Appointments will be over the phone, and you will need to fill out a form and return it to us before your appointment. After scheduling your appointment, we will mail a form to you, or you can pick one up from us.

If you need assistance with your plan, contact Sharon Duke at 662-324-7860 or Carla Guyton at 662-328-0437.

MEDICARE PART D OPEN ENROLLMENT

SENIOR ENRICHMENT CENTERS



Hand & Foot Card Group



Knitting, Crochet and Jewelry Group

Recent arts and crafts



SENIOR ENRICHMENT CENTERS



Line Dancing Participants



More arts and crafts



Two Weeks of Puzzles!

We love being able to provide places for our seniors to socialize, learn new things and have fun. We are so grateful for all of our seniors!

HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED ELDERLY AND DISABLED WAIVER PROGRAM

What is it?

The Medicaid Waiver Program provides home and community-based services that assist Medicaid clients to remain in their homes and avoid institutionalization.

Eligibility is determined through a comprehensive pre-admission screening instrument encompassing activities of daily living, sensory deficits, cognitive deficits, behaviors and medical conditions.

What are the qualifications?

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.

Contact our Medicaid Waiver Office:
662-320-2003.

What services are offered under this waiver?

- **Case Management:** Everyone in the program is assigned to a local case management team. This team consists of a registered nurse and licensed social worker who visit the client on a monthly basis. They are responsible for managing and coordinating the services for each participant.
- **Personal Care Services (PCS):** These are supportive services provided in the home of the participant. They include assistance with light housekeeping, laundry, meal preparation, bathing, dressing, personal hygiene and activities of daily living.
- **Adult Day Services:** This is a structured program that focuses on the strengths and abilities of the participant. This service allows participants to contact connections with their community and/or use all of their retained skills. Depending on the specific facility, the following services are provided: supervision and/or assistance with ADLs, group activities, nutritious meals and medication monitoring.
- **Home Delivered Meals:** A well-balanced meal is delivered to the home of the person who is unable to leave their home without assistance and/or is unable to prepare their own meals.
- **Institutional Respite and/or In-Home Respite:** This is provided to participants on a short-term basis because of the absence of or need for relief for the primary care giver. This can be provided in the home or other licensed respite care centers.

Medicaid Waiver RNs and LSWs:

Oktribbeha:

#1: Tina McWhorter, RN
 Andrea Wright, LSW
 #2: Jennifer Grantham, LSW
 Jennifer Bridges, LSW
 #3: Paige Winfield, RN
 Christina Bland, LSW
 #4: Krystal Taylor, RN
 Megan Aucoin, LSW

Lowndes:

#1: Angela Whitaker, RN
 Penny Harrison, RN
 #2: Cindy Reese, RN
 Tennie Simpson, LSW
 #3: Lindsey Livingston, RN
 Angelia Sansing, LSW

Noxubee:

#1: Rachael Unruh, RN
 Lauren Smith, LSW
 #2: Tammy Castle, RN
 Kallie Hubbard, LSW

Webster:

Sydney Thompson, RN
 Lisa Woods, LSW

Choctaw:

Tina Gill, RN
 Kaylee Hunt, LSW

Clay:

Mitzi Phelps, RN
 Lesa Wilson, LSW

Winston:

Kim Mills, RN

Staff Anniversaries: 5+ Years

July

Kimberly Mills	24
Myra Halford	07
Jon Coker	06
Tammy Castle	24
Mitzi Phelps	25
Regina Rambus	17

August

Mitzi Lawrence	24
Angel Coggins	20
Robbie Harris	11
Anna Lancaster	11
Queen Kidd	22
Angelia Sansing	18

September

Ruthie Colter	22
Courtney Johnson	05
Timothy Heard	31
Amy Sanford	13
Santreena Triplett	21
Tiffany Gilliland	11

CONTACTS AND SOCIAL MEDIA



Main Office: 662-324-7860

Pharmacy: 662-320-2011

Aging: 662-320-2001

Solid Waste: 1-800-217-6909



Main Office:

gtpdd@gtpdd.com

Pharmacy:

PharmHIT@gtpdd.com



@GTrianglePDD



Main Office: 662-324-7328

Pharmacy: 662-320-2004

The GTPDD is online at www.gtpdd.com.



GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Planning and Development District, Inc.