

GOLDEN TRIANGLE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

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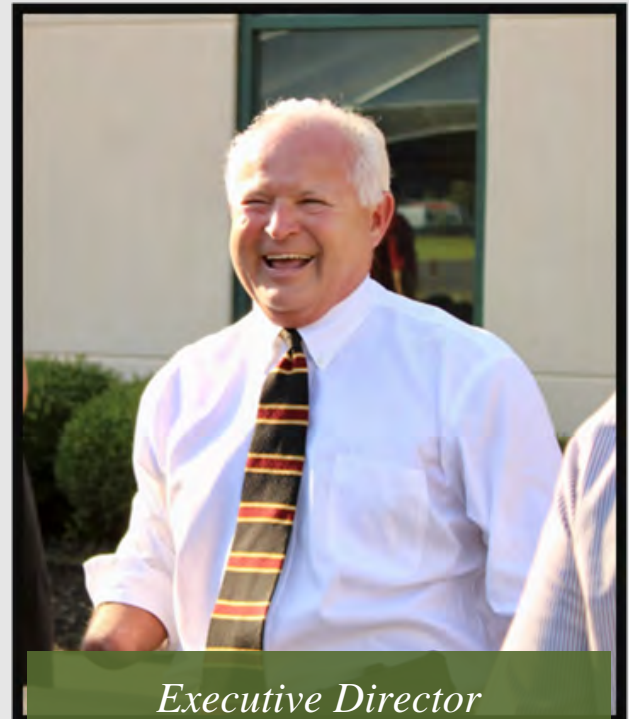
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Director's Message:

As the Christmas season ends and 2025 approaches, it's incredibly important to make sure we're still checking in on those in our community to make sure their needs are being met.

If you know someone struggling with food insecurity, health issues, etc., please reach out to us to see about getting them the help they need. We offer respite, meals, personal care, pharmacy services and more that can help those struggling.

Let's carry the holiday spirit of joy, generosity and hope with us year round and continue uplifting and connecting with our community. Spend as much time with your family and friends as you can and truly cherish those connections this season.



*Executive Director
Rupert L. "Rudy" Johnson*

From the GTPDD family to yours, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We look forward to continue helping those in need in our local communities in 2025.



WIOA GATEWAY PROGRAM

In 2024, we saw youth in Choctaw, Clay, Lowndes, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Webster and Winston counties secure job training and temporary jobs, thanks to the WIOA Gateway In-School Workforce Training Program. After classroom instruction, youth are given an opportunity to train in selected jobs, proving to themselves and employers their capabilities as beneficial employees.

With salaries and workers' comp funded by the GTPDD, employers suffer no expense. Businesses may interview the youth applicants, so they have choices in whom they hire, supervise, train, mold and mentor. It is not unusual for businesses to retain youth trainees as permanent employees.

Often, when advised of this opportunity, a business owner or manager will respond, "What's the catch? This sounds too good to be true." The truth is: there is no catch, and there is no fine print. It is simply a win-win situation for youth and businesses. Youth get a chance to practice skills learned during training, and a business is given a free employee. There are many businesses in our seven-county area that work with the program year after year to train these young people for future workforce positions in their companies. To these businesses, we say thank you!

If you own a business or know management staff who would like to help develop your area's future workforce, call Mitzi Lawrence at 662-324-5007.

The 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.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING



Pictured left to right: Heike Gutierrez from MDHS, GTPDD Nutrition Coordinator Melody Benseid, GTPDD Program Coordinator Amy Sanford

The Golden Triangle Planning and Development District Area Agency on Aging received canned goods this year from the Mississippi Division of Aging and Adult Services office in Jackson.

Each year the MDHS Aging and Adult Services office collects food and distributes these goods among the 10 Area Agency on Aging Offices to be given out to senior citizens in their communities.

MUNICIPALITY & COUNTY WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

From the MCWI Grant Management Team:

Regarding the 12/31/24 ARPA/LFRF obligation deadline, the U.S. Treasury hosted a webinar that discussed in detail how to obligate your LFRF allocation by the 12/31/24 deadline and when to report that obligation into the U.S. Treasury reporting portal. They stressed that all LFRF funds allocated to local governments **MUST** be obligated by 12/31/24 without exception, including all lost revenue funds. As a reminder, lost revenue funds are not automatically considered to be obligated.

Reporting your obligation of LFRF funds used towards your MCWI match into the MCWI portal is not enough to satisfy your reporting obligations to U.S. Treasury. The MCWI portal is not managed by U.S. Treasury, thus you must also timely report all obligations and expenditures into the U.S. Treasury portal in accordance with the required reporting deadlines depending on what type of recipient you are as determined by Treasury. A few highlights from the webinar include:

- The focus for all local governments at this time should be obligating all LFRF funds by the 12/31/24 deadline. All obligations that occur between your last reporting period and the next reporting period will be able to be reported into the Treasury portal during your next reporting cycle. For example, if you executed a MOU to obligate your LFRF funds prior to 12/31/24 you can report that in during your next cycle, the execution date just must be on or before 12/31/24 and that MOU will need to be reported into and uploaded to the Treasury portal during the next cycle. If you have executed an MOU on or before 12/31/24 then the fund amount listed in that MOU would be considered to be obligated and you will just need to report it into the Treasury portal during your next reporting cycle.
- Next reporting periods for US Treasury:
 - January 1-31, 2025 for quarterly reporters; and
 - April 1-30, 2025 for annual reporters.
- Lost revenue funds are not automatically obligated. There are a series of slides demonstrating how to obligate these funds and properly report them into the Treasury portal.

Watch the NACO webinar at https://vimeo.com/1033224519/4a61f74f17?share=copy&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MCWI+Helpful+Tools.

SENIOR ENRICHMENT CENTERS

FROM COLUMBUS DIRECTOR CARLA GUYTON:

Hopefully, this finds all of you well and thankful for another year as we look back on 2024 and look forward to 2025!

This last quarter has been crazy for a lot of reasons. Medicare open enrollment is always a little intense. New changes from Medicare each year, deadline dates to meet, a computer crash where contacts and forms were lost, many new clients and keeping the groups going all made life a little hectic at times, but we survived it.



*Card Group
Christmas Luncheon*

Working with you is really a pleasure, and I truly appreciate your calls and notes of appreciation. As I have told many of you, the Medicare drug plans are like a jigsaw puzzle, but there is nothing better than a challenging puzzle.

Our seniors have faced some serious hurdles this year. Most of them have made it through stronger and more resilient than ever. Our aging population is incredibly important. They are strong, wise, kind, sincere, honest, loyal, hard-working and smart. You would do well to spend time with them and listen to them. They are a wealth of knowledge.



*Jewelry, Knitting and Crochet
Group*

SENIOR ENRICHMENT CENTERS



In Memory of Diane Humber

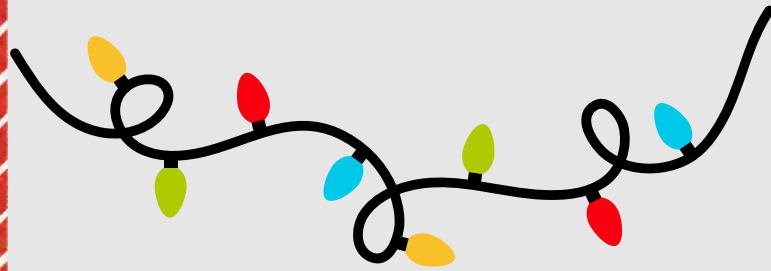
We lost one of our newest this year in September. Diane Humber joined the jewelry class over a year ago and was just a delightful person and full of energy. She loved life, her friends, her family and her Lord. She was here in class one week and gone the next. It was a really hard blow for everyone. She was the one person you would never have expected to suffer a series of strokes that took her away. It has left a void, for sure. - **Director Carla Guyton**



MEDICAID WAIVER



To celebrate this joyous time of year, the GTPDD sponsors the provision of Christmas gifts to Medicaid Waiver clients. Warm clothes, blankets, toiletries, food and household items are among the gifts purchased and delivered to clients.



Many elderly people do not have family or friends to share the holiday with, so the Medicaid Waiver staff makes sure they are remembered. Happy Holidays to all of our wonderful clients!



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

October

Lisa Woods 08
 Lucille Mosley 12
 Diana Prince 13
 David Alexander 16
 Charlene Jones 19
 Lauren Smith 24
 Melody Benseid 26
 Annie Sanders 26

November

Cynthia Reese 12
 Lindsey Livingston 12
 Alicia Barry 23
 Jessica Foxx 24

December

Kristy Whitaker 06
 Krystal Taylor 07
 Maria Lopez 21

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.