

Avita Community Partners
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

DATE: June 28, 2023	TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: Avita Administrative Offices and Zoom	PRESIDING: Kent Woerner, Chair

Attendance

Seth Barnes, Jr.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Alice Worthan	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Angela Whidby	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Barbara Bosanko	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Terry Hawkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Carol Williams	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Angie Brown	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			Kent Woerner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Sharon Bucek	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Bruce Palmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Rachel Mathis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Kathy Cooper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Penny Penn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Brenda Hardy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Sherry Estep	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Bo Garrison	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	Shanna Prather	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Executive Team Member Attendance

Greg Ball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Lori Holbrook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hannah Quinn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Cathy Ganter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Cindy Levi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Don Reimer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
				Allan Harden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Agenda Items	Key Discussion Points/Outcomes/Decisions/Action Items
Call to Order	The Board Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Kent Woerner.
Determine Quorum	A quorum was present with 10 out of 16 members.
Approval of Agenda	Motion to approve the agenda made by Barbara Bosanko, and seconded by Brenda Hardy, passed unanimously.
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve the May 23, 2023 minutes with one minor change by Barbara Bosanko, seconded by Cathy Cooper, passed unanimously.
Board Chair Report	Kent welcomed everyone. He shared his term as GACSB chairman was over and he enjoyed doing that for the last year.
CEO Report	<p>Cindy reviewed the following in her report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As Avita is preparing its Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) budget, so are many of the counties we serve. Some of our counties provide an opportunity to present our budget request in person to the finance committee and sometimes to the full Board of Commissioners. On May 25th I had the opportunity to present Avita’s annual budget request to the Forsyth County Finance Committee. I also shared an overview of the services we provided to Forsyth County residents over the past year and thanked the committee and Commissioners for their ongoing support. Board member Sergeant Terry Hawkins was able to share a few words regarding the Crisis Intervention Response Team and his experience on Avita’s Board. We requested \$60,000 from Forsyth County. Also, regarding county budget requests, we were notified that Hall County approved a \$60,000 contribution for FY24. • This past month has been audit and review month. Our ACT Fidelity Monitoring Review was conducted on May 31st – June 1st. We are awaiting their final report. Our Consumer Support Team received a visit from the Department of Justice Settlement Agreement monitor, Elizabeth Jones on June 26th. The Georgia Collaborative Administrative Services Organization (ASO) began their annual audit of Avita’s behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disability programs on June 26th. We are anticipating the exit interview from that audit on June 29th. The Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) will provide their Program Review on June 29th. Review of our Medication Assistance Treatment Program originally scheduled for June 27th has been rescheduled at the request of DBHDD for July 13th. • Former Avita Board Member, Avery Nix, was selected as the Executive Director for a new behavioral health treatment provider in Atlanta called Valor Behavioral Health. They held an open house on June 7th. Valor will provide partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient services at their location on Druid Hills Drive. Avita sends its congratulations and best wishes to Avery in his new venture.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 9th finalized the sale of an unusable portion of land (2.68 acres) down in the valley behind the BHCC. We sold it for \$25,300 per board directive with no other costs associated with the land transfer. This leaves us with 6.509 acres of land at our BHCC site. • A 2-part feature story on mental health services was highlighted in the “Northeast Georgian” newspaper on June 14th and June 21st. The first article was titled “There is help out there for those in crisis.” The sequel was titled “More places to turn in crisis.” The range of services offered by Avita were included, focusing on the fact that many are available free of charge to those in need. Accessing services quickly and easily by dialing 988 when a person is experiencing a crisis was emphasized. • The IDD Learning Collaborative was held in Augusta June 14th and 15th. One of the sessions was a report out on the “Wisdom of Leadership” conference held in Macon in May. Avita was recognized for its participation in the Learning Journey where our self-advocates and staff, shared ideas, stories and solutions. It was nice to work together with providers, self-advocates and DBHDD. • Michelle Thompson facilitated a training on working with individuals who have serious and persistent mental illness on June 16th. She used a unique approach, taking 20 people from Avita to visit 3 homeless camps where many people with serious and persistent mental illness live in the Gainesville area. The staff had an opportunity to interact with the individuals. They distributed food, water, and wipes during the visit. They also learned how to get individuals connected with various benefits and acquire necessary documents like Social Security cards and birth certificates. • Results of the Behavioral Health Rate Study conducted by Deloitte were shared and their full report was reviewed on June 1st. The Avita team analyzed the impact of these rates by looking at the volume of services provided last year by each procedure code, then converting to the proposed rates. According to this analysis, Avita would realize a 30.2% increase in funding for these services, bringing in a projected \$2.2 million in additional revenue. Public comment was accepted until June 14th. On behalf of Avita, comments were submitted in favor of the proposed rates. The only concerns raised were: 1) need to consider a cost-of-living adjustment and 2) request for supplemental funding to support Psychiatrist and Nurse Practitioner salaries. Rates we are currently paid were established 20 years ago with no adjustments made over those years in consideration of inflation or overall increases in cost-of-living and wage expectations. • A Letter of Support was provided for a “Safer Georgia Schools” grant application submitted by Rabun County Schools. Their proposal includes the provision of mental health crisis training to better equip those responding in such situations. Early detection and intervention coupled with use of de-escalation strategies to avert disasters and create an environment with a focus on mental wellness while ensuring a healthy foundation for learning were also supported. • The Rabun County community came together to hold its first Mental Health Collaborative on May 31st. Commissioner Woerner, Jean Hutchinson, and I were in attendance representing Avita. Community members voiced their appreciation for Avita having a presence there and were pleased to hear that we are now serving individuals in Rabun County 3 days per week. • During the month of May, Hall County’s IDD Program welcomed the Hall County Sheriff’s K9 unit to their site to demonstrate some of the K9 officers’ response to commands. Bella and Fico are German Short-haired Pointers, and the individuals we serve loved them! The fire department also came to the site to provide a refresher course on fire safety. • Our kick-off meeting of the Northeast Georgia Law Enforcement- Mental Health Collaborative and Co-Responder Protocol Committee was held on June 23rd. We discussed the reasons for forming this committee and touched on requirements of Senate Bill 403 (Co-Responder Legislation) and House Bill 1013 (Mental Health Parity Act). An overview of a Co-Responder Team was provided, and Sergeant Terry Hawkins shared some of his experiences working on the Forsyth County Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT); emphasizing that

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	<p>since the team’s inception, the population of individuals with mental illness incarcerated in the Forsyth County Jail has reduced by 50%, saving the County approximately \$1 million! Avita’s new Jail In-Reach Program in the Hall County Jail was introduced, and the staff working in this program, Holley Buckhalter and Josh Bell described their impact on inmates during the program’s first month of operation. The next quarterly meeting will be held at the BHCC, offering tours to law enforcement officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Mental Health Awareness month, the Forsyth and Dawson County outpatient clinics focused on helping individuals learn about the prevalence of mental health issues. Informational boards were made for the lobby, and several group sessions conducted carried the theme of clients being “More than Enough...,” learning ways they can celebrate themselves despite (if not because of) their mental health concerns. • End of FY23 bonus will be distributed to everyone on June 30th. The Governor’s \$2,000 raise for full time employees begins on July 1st. Our part-time employees will also receive the pay increase on a pro-rated basis. • The following staff were recognized for going above and beyond over the past month: Jade Sessums, Barbara Bemetrician, Jasmin Ruiz Benitez, Kathryn Hughes, Catherine Kamin, Sally Russo, Amy Pass, Kenslei Krippner, Robert Wilson, Orlando Hanon, and Brooke Turk. Thanks to these staff who focus on quality of services provided by Avita and embody our mission. • Cindy finished by sharing additional happenings around Avita and success stories.
Financial Update	<p>Greg Ball reviewed the following in his report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May saw a \$70,000 surplus. • Current year revenues are \$3.4 million (or 12.7%) above prior year revenues. • Current year expenses are \$3.2 million (or 12.2%) above prior year levels. • Our Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) continued to exceed the targets established by DBHDD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cash on Hand is 86 days—well above the 30-day minimum ○ Current Ratio – 9.3:1 ○ Days of Covered Expenses – 85 days –still well above the minimum of 60 days ○ Long Term Debt Ratio – .17:1 – well below the maximum of 2.5:1
FY24 Proposed Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg shared a short PowerPoint presentation to the board of the upcoming expenditures and revenues. Motion made by Barbara Bosanko to accept it as presented, seconded by Kathy Cooper, passed unanimously.
Board “At Large” discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion between Carl and Alton ensued. Individuals felt that both candidates would be a great addition to the board but since Alton placed his hat in the ring first that they would go with him. Motion made by Angela Whidby to approve Alton Fry for the remaining “at large” board member term to expire on 6/30/24, seconded by Barbara Bosanko and passed unanimously. Kent said he would reach out to Alton and let him know and would also let Carl know of the decision.
Closed Session: Lavonia Land Purchase offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce Palmer made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Barbara Bosanko; passed unanimous. No action was taken in open session.
Adjourn at 8:38 pm	<p>Kathy Cooper made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Barbara Bosanko, and they adjourned unanimously.</p>

Kent Woerner

7/26/23

Presiding Officer Signature

Date Approved

Respectfully submitted,

Hariah Hutkowski

Hariah Hutkowski, Recording Clerk