

Avita Community Partners
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

DATE: May 27, 2026	TIME: 6:00 PM
PLACE: BHCC and Zoom	PRESIDING: Samantha Turner, Chair

Attendance

Kandy Bond	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Monika Knight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	UNFILLED (Hart)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Barbara Bosanko	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Rachel Mathis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Kim Stephens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Angie Brown	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Bobby Mayfield	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Samantha Turner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Kathy Cooper	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Lisa McCall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	David White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
David Owens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Penny Penn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Carol Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Brenda Hochmuth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Joe Perkins	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	UNFILLED (Stephens)	

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	Don Reimer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Cathy Ganter	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Catherine Murphy	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
Allan Harden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hannah Quinn	<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 6:05 PM by Samantha Turner, Chairman. Dante McKay from DBHDD was in attendance.
Quorum	A quorum was present with 11 /16 members.
Approve Agenda	Motion to approve the agenda made by Rachel Mathis, seconded by Kim Stephens, was passed unanimously.
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve the minutes from April 22, 2026 was made by Kim Stephens, seconded by David Owens. Passed unanimously.
Board Chair Report	Shared her great time for the mural opening.
Oath of Office	Bobby Mayfield, Lumpkin County Elected Official for the term of 1/1/26 – 12/31/28, was sworn in.
CEO Report -Lori Holbrook	<p>Senate Bill 535, the restructuring of the Community Service Boards, was signed into law on May 5th, 2026. An Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer have been hired to implement the new structure on July 1st, 2026. Some of the changes we will see include standardized board by-laws, online board member certification and training and leadership training for the CEO's and 'rising stars' of the CSB's.</p> <p>On May 8th the UNG Mural class unveiled their mural in our Behavioral Health Crisis Center Temporary Observation room. The nearly 400 sq. ft. mural of a mama duck, her ducklings, and lily pads provides a relaxing atmosphere to the clients and staff. It was our third mural in four years. Avita's Board Chair, Samantha Turner, attended this moving and fun ceremony.</p> <p>Union County sole Commissioner Harold Collins brought together Mountain Shelter Humane Society and Avita regarding a potential donated parcel of land for a new center. On May 4th, Lori Holbrook, Hannah Quinn and I went to visit the land. The parcel is approximately 3 acres with about 1 graded buildable acre, and it has a septic tank and electricity already on the property. It is located on the same road as the humane society on the left as you are coming up the hill. We are waiting for additional information from the Commissioner to move the project along.</p> <p>Cliff Bradshaw, the commissioner from Towns County, and Avita board member, Rachel Mathis, came for a visit to the Avita Blairsville Center on April 28th. They said hello and spoke with staff. It was a pleasure to showcase our behavioral health and intellectual disability programs. We truly appreciate</p>

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	<p>their interest and support for our initiatives, as well as their understanding of our current and future needs. During their visit, our team leader for the intellectual disability day program also discussed our services and the goals we have set to enhance opportunities for the individuals that we serve.</p> <p>The Blairsville IDD participants were thankful for the opportunity to attend the Annual Special Olympics held on April 16th at Union County High School. It was a day filled with enthusiasm and joy as our individuals took part in various activities including the softball throw, soccer kick, and running events.</p> <p>We found a new property on Cagle Road in North Hall County for our IDD group home project. An offer was made and after some negotiations, was accepted. We are now in the “due diligence” phase of testing the soil for suitability to build, plus completing a survey and appraisal. The soil test is scheduled for June 2nd. If the soil samples come back good, we will officially start the project.</p> <p>Lori Holbrook and I attended the National Council for Mental Wellbeing Conference (NATCON) from April 27th – 30th in Denver, Colorado. Many of the Georgia CSB’s were represented and we had about 30 of us get together one night to celebrate. We attended many sessions and plenaries, mostly focused on leadership development, data driven decision making, deliberate practice and the future of AI and mental health. There are always so many amazing speakers, it’s hard to choose who to see!</p> <p>You may remember we spoke about our AI project with Mila, which was intended to increase engagement with our clients from their initial intake appointment to their second appointment. We know many of our clients do not return after their initial intake and we were looking for a solution to increase the percentage of returns. We worked with the team at Mila for almost a year and continued to have the same implementation challenges, so we made the difficult decision to end the partnership. We wish Mila all the best. We will be looking to find alternative solutions to client engagement.</p> <p>Catherine Murphy, Michelle Thompson, and I attended the Housing First Partners Conference from May 11th – 14th in San Francisco, California. Of the many sessions we attended, some of the more notable ones were about trauma informed care in working with individuals who are homeless, using data to ask for additional funding, multimedia storytelling, and secondary trauma prevention.</p> <p>Sometime during 2025, our accrediting body, CARF, reached out to ask for a change in our survey time from May to November. Since we accepted this new timeframe, our CARF accreditation survey application is due on May 31, 2026, and we are on schedule for the submission deadline. CARF stands for the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. We are required by DBHDD and other regulating bodies to have accreditation for both behavioral health and intellectual and developmental disabilities. CARF has over 2100 rigorous standards, according to which we are surveyed. We have been CARF accredited since 1998 – each time for a 3-year period, so this year will be our 10th survey!</p> <p>In Forsyth County Avita provided LEAP (Listen-Empathize-Agree-Partner) Training to 240 Forsyth County Sheriff’s Deputies! The Forsyth County Sheriff’s Department has invested in all their staff having training in ways to communicate with individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. Lori Holbrook is scheduled to do more training this summer. Thanks to Joe Perkins for making this happen.</p> <p>Avita recently had a potential Host Home Provider home pass the DBHDD inspection and is now waiting on their host home provider number. We also have three additional homes to become possible host home providers. If you recollect, this is significant because we have not added new host home providers in many years!</p> <p>The Dahlonega IDD Center had a wonderful day at Lazy Days Catfish Pond in Cleveland last month. It truly was a memorable outing, filled with excitement and joy as everyone anticipated the thrill of catching a fish. The laughter we shared was infectious, marking our day as one filled with not only fishing but also friendship and fun. They also had an incredible night that was shared at the EPIC</p>

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	<p>(Exceptional People In our Community) prom. It truly was an EPIC gathering, filled with joy, laughter, and unforgettable memories. Seeing everyone dressed up and enjoying themselves made the evening even more special. From the moment they arrived, the atmosphere was electric! Everyone danced with enthusiasm, laughed freely, and expressed what a wonderful time they had. A huge thank you to the EPIC team and Rock Creek Park and Recreation for organizing such a fantastic event. Lastly, a group of Dahlonega IDD individuals enjoyed a day at the University of North Georgia’s Wahsega 4-H Pioneer Day Camp. It was a day filled with immersive learning and hands-on activities that took us back in time to appreciate the skills and ingenuity of our pioneers.</p> <p>On April 7th, 2026, the Hall County/Gainesville City schools APEX team invited several students to join us for a Spring Break self-care workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to use mindfulness skills, stress-release skills, and positive affirmations. The mindful intervention was utilized to foster positive mindset shifts, increase resilience, embrace creativity, and develop actionable plans for personal growth.</p> <p>During the month of April, our Autism program celebrated Easter, Autism Awareness Month, Spring Break, and two birthdays! They learned about the origins of Easter celebrations and did an Easter egg hunt in the backyard at Mabry. They celebrated Autism Awareness Month by learning about others’ differences and strategies for teamwork. Our individuals also participated in field trips to the community – the store, the farmer’s market, park, and a restaurant. They practiced interactive and cooperative play skills both inside and outside the clinic.</p> <p>On April 17th, Jeremy Merritt, Anne Gambill, and Kathryn Hughes participated in the Dawson County Family Connection Teen Maze event. Jeremy and DBHDD’s Sheree Ralston were at the “Treatment/Recovery/Rehab” table, while Katie and Anne (for the 3rd year in a row) ran the “Suicide Prevention” table (with Dawson County School’s Mental Health Facilitator, Jordan Lefevere.)</p> <p>On April 26th, Jeremy Merritt, Danielle Rietta, and Christine Joseph participated in the Walk for Recovery, getting the opportunity to share about Avita services, while paying tribute to all those lost to substance use.</p> <p>As always, Avita would like to recognize the following staff for going “Above and Beyond:” Julie Fountain, Adrienne Dooley, and Eric Mullins. Thanks for all you do!</p>
Financial Update	<p>Greg Ball reviewed the following in his report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April saw a \$44,000 deficit. This brings the FY surplus (not including the ERC revenues) to \$393,000. With the Employee Retention Credit the surplus is \$4.039 million. • Current year revenues without the Employment Retention Credit (ERC) payments are \$2,000,000 above prior year revenues, which is 5.9% increase over prior year’s revenues. • Current year expenses are \$2.4 million, which is a 7.5% increase above prior year expenses. • Our Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) continued to exceed the targets established by DBHDD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cash on Hand is 121 days–well above the 30-day minimum ○ Current Ratio – 14.6:1 ○ Days of Covered Expenses – 132 days –well above the minimum of 60 days ○ Long Term Debt Ratio – .17:1 – well below the maximum of 2.5:1
Quarterly Corporate Compliance Report	<p>Lori Holbrook shared the following:</p>

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	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Patterns & Trends Q1 25 vs Q1 26</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of reports increased <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal reports increased: 82 < 92 • External reports increased: 1 < 2 • Subject area increases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Safety: 12 < 27 • Management Practices: 13 < 15 • Subject area decreases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Quality: 58 > 52 • Subject area equal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Practices: 0 = 0 <p>Only 3 % were unsubstantiated, down from 4% in 2025.</p>
Nominating Committee for Chair, Vice-Chair and Parliamentarian	The nominating committee recommended keeping Samantha Turner as Chair, adding Monika Knight as Vice-Chair and retaining Kim Stephens as parliamentarian for FY 27. Motion to pass made by Kim Stephens and seconded by Bobby Mayfield, unanimously passed.
By-Law Changes	There were no changes recommended.
Closed Session Personnel and Negotiation reasons	Brenda Hochmuth made a motion to go into closed session at 6:30 pm, seconded by Kim Stephens. Unanimous to go into closed session. Brenda Hochmuth made a motion to come out of closed session at 6: 38 pm, seconded by Carol Williams, passed unanimously.
Announcements	None.
Adjourn at 7:30 pm	Penny Penn made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Lisa McCall. Unanimously passed.

Samantha Turner

June 24, 2026

Presiding Officer Signature, Chair, Samantha Turner

Date Approved

Respectfully submitted,

Hariah Hutkowski

Hariah Hutkowski, Recording Clerk/Board Secretary