

Avita Community Partners
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

DATE: May 22, 2024	TIME: 6:00 PM
PLACE: Avita Administrative Offices and Zoom	PRESIDING: Kent Woerner, Chair

Attendance

Barbara Bosanko	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Brenda Hochmuth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Kim Stephens	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Angie Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Rachel Mathis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Samantha Turner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Sharon Bucek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Bruce Palmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Angela Whidby	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Kathy Cooper	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Penny Penn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Carol Williams	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Alton Fry	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Joe Perkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Kent Woerner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Bo Garrison	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Shanna Prather	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Alice Worthan	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Executive Team Member Attendance

Greg Ball	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Cindy Levi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Christie Brooksher	Attended for Greg
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 6:10 PM by Kent Woerner
Determine Quorum	A quorum was present with 11 out of 18 members.
Approval of Agenda	Motion to approve the agenda made by Penny Penn, seconded by Bruce Palmer, passed unanimously.
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve the April 24 th , 2024 minutes by Angela Whidby, seconded by Samantha Turner passed unanimously.
Board Chair Report	Kent shared about the GACSB moving to a new consultant and Unite Rabun is going very well.
Swear in new board member	Chief Deputy Joe Perkins took the oath of office. He is the citizen appointment that will finish a partial term ending on June 30, 2025 that was vacated by Terry Hawkins.
CEO Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to our partnership with the University of North Georgia’s Art Department, we had 2 new murals unveiled at a recognition ceremony on May 1st at Avita’s BHCC. The first one, “Reaching toward the Sun” will offer hope to those exiting the BHCC to start their lives of recovery. The sunflower has a strong core, supporting the blossom as it reaches toward the sun for strength. The second is a beautiful beach scene at sunset with birds flying toward the light. This one covers the entire wall of the dining room. • Jeremy Merritt represented Avita and presented at the first meeting of DBHDD and the GA Department of Education. The purpose of this event was to develop collaborative relationships between mental health providers and decision makers in education. Jeremy gave an overview of Avita’s services to representatives of DBHDD’s Region 1 Field Office. • The time has come to return the vehicles whose leases were extended following the pandemic when availability of new vehicles was extremely limited. The first batch of the new fleet of Versas has arrived. The next round will be the Sentras, followed by Pacifica vans, Ford-350 high occupancy vans and later new retro-fitted wheelchair lift vans. In addition to replacing vehicles whose leases have expired, more vehicles are being added to the fleet to accommodate the increase in community activities for our IDD programs. • TUG the Bus is being transformed from a school bus to a vehicle to provide Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). Avita is partnering with HealthIE Georgia on this project thanks to a Federal RCORP Grant. • On April 26th all the IDD staff came together for a day of honoring the hard work the DSPs, Residential Coordinators, Team Leads, and IDD staff who provide for the men and women Avita serves. DSP of the Year nominees were: Jodi Page- Lavonia,

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	<p>Venezuela Borders- Gainesville, Tonya Jordan- Demorest, Amanda Thomas- Dahlonega, and Marcia Forney- Blairsville. DSP of the Year went to Amanda Thomas of Dahlonega! The Residential Coordinator of the Year award went to Michelle Brown of Dahlonega. Finally, Jan Colston, of Demorest won Team Lead of the Year!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SPADD Annual Conference was held in Peachtree City April 21st and 22nd. IDD providers from across the state gathered to expand their skills to better serve the individuals counting on them. Avita was well represented at this conference. • Tanya Messer and Lori Holbrook attended the Rape Response Voices for Victims: March of Resilience on Saturday, April 26th. This event was held on the square in Gainesville. There were several inspiring speakers who told their stories. They also gave hope to the crowd by their resilience in not allowing themselves to stay a victim. Several of our community partners were also in attendance. • April was Autism Awareness Month. They picked one week to do a Spirit week which included Rocking the Tie Dye, The Red, The Blue, and Silly Sock days! The Autism staff were recognized for their hard work during this month. • DBHDD hosted an IDD Learning Collaborative at Lake Lanier on May 1st and 2nd. Inspirational presenters encouraged all in attendance as they focus their efforts on assisting others to meet their full potential in life. • “Spring Fling”, a self-advocate conference, was held on April 28th - 30th at St. Simon’s Island. A vibrant group of Avita mental health self-advocates attended, supported by their staff. The peers had a wonderful time hearing from the guest speakers, learning about how to continue and improve their recovery. New friendships were made, and old friendships were renewed. • Danielle Rietta represented Avita at the Prescription and Illicit Drug Summit in Atlanta, GA. This event was paid for by the Forsyth Drug Awareness Council. Danielle got to hear from several experts in the field of addiction, law enforcement, and treatment. She was also joined by former Avita Forsyth intern John Dawson. • Forsyth County held a Mental Health Symposium on May 13th in celebration of mental health awareness month. Avita had an information table at this event, and I presented information on the need for expanded services in Forsyth County. A father shared his story of the suicide death of his son, and a young lady shared her struggles with mental illness since the age of 9. Both emphasizing the need to eliminate the stigma associated with mental illness and the need for more support services. • The Dahlonega IDD Community Access Group took a trip to Gainesville to tour one of the recycling plants. They learned that recycling helps our community by cleaning our environment and reducing the amount of waste that goes into our landfills. • On May 8th Avita staff celebrated with Hannah and Patrick Quinn on their impending arrival of Baby Jeremiah. We look forward to meeting this little miracle, wish them well, and send our congratulations! • On May 9th Denise Eller, a CRS with Avita, hosted a “Creative Thread Story Telling Event” at her farm. They enjoyed a great time with the IDD clients “stitching and weaving” together stories that inspired. • Sponsored by the Hall County United Way and One Hall Collaborative, a mental health walk was held along Green Street on May 15th. Walkers wore green on Green Street sharing the message “Live United” and Go Green for mental health awareness as another mental health month activity. • Officers from the Flowery Branch Police Department came to Avita’s Administrative office on May 16th to discuss offering random drug sweeps with their dog of our substance use facilities. It was nice to see that the officer was wearing a green ribbon in honor of mental health month. A grant application was submitted to the opioid

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	<p>trust fund portal to renovate our old CSU space to convert it to a Men’s Addictive Disease Semi-Independent Residential. We’re hoping it gets selected for funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the last month, Mary Donna McAvoy, Julie Fountain, and Tammy Massey were recognized for going above and beyond. • Barbara Marshall, Sherry Phillips and Chuck Vickery all retired last month.
Financial Update	<p>Greg Ball reviewed the following in his report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March saw a \$135,000 surplus. • Current year revenues are \$2.4 million above prior year revenues which is a 8.6% increase over last year. • Current year expenses are \$2.5 million (or 9.3%) above prior year expenses. • Current surplus fiscal year to date is \$556,000. • Our Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) continued to exceed the targets established by DBHDD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cash on Hand is 85 days—well above the 30-day minimum ○ Current Ratio – 10:1 ○ Days of Covered Expenses – 83 days —well above the minimum of 60 days ○ Long Term Debt Ratio – .14:1 – well below the maximum of 2.5:1
Corporate Compliance Report	<p>Total Reports 108 for Quarter 1 of Calendar Year 2024, 94% substantiated</p> <p><u>Patterns & Trends</u></p> <p>Number of reports increased over last year’s same quarter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal reports increased – 104 > 82 • External reports increased – 4 > 0 <p>Subject area increases: Management Practices – 7 < 14</p> <p>Subject area decreases: Health and Safety – 45 > 29 Service Quality – 56 > 39</p> <p>Subject area equal: Management Practices – 0 = 0</p>
Strategic Plan Q1 Update	<p>Highlighted a few metrics within the entire report presented:</p> <p>1.1: Average percentage of clients keeping their first treatment appointment will increase from 60% to 65%. We are at 60%.</p> <p>1.2: Number of business days from intake to 1st physician appointment will not exceed 14 business days. We are at 1.37. This was hailed as a great accomplishment.</p> <p>2.1: Voluntary turnover rate will not exceed 25%. We are at 14%.</p> <p>3.1: 85% of positions will be filled in order for 100% of programs to be operational. We are at 84%.</p> <p>6: Members of the Glue Committee will develop and implement two new strategies each quarter to improve staff retention and morale. We will bring back the navy Avita t-shirts for new employees and we are planning a half day appreciation event for employees</p>
Nomination Committee Report	<p>They reported that the slate will be Penny Penn for Board Chairman, Carol Williams for Vice-chairman, and Rachel Mathis as Parliamentarian.</p>
Board Governance Report	<p>Kent read the proposed changes to the group for them to consider next month. 2 minor errors were detected and will be changed for the June meeting.</p>
Announcements	<p>Kemp signed the state budget which includes a 4% COLA increase for full time staff. We are delaying a bonus discussion until 2 programs that are running in deficit can be addressed to verify the funds may become available for any year-end bonus discussion.</p>
Adjourn at 7:20 pm	<p>Angela Whidby made a motion to adjourn, seconded by B. Palmer, and adjourned unanimously.</p>

Kent Woerner

6/26/24

Presiding Officer Signature

Date Approved

Respectfully submitted,

Hariah Hutkowski

Hariah Hutkowski, Recording Clerk