

Avita Community Partners
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

DATE: February 28, 2024	TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: Avita Administrative Offices and Zoom	PRESIDING: Kent Woerner, Chair

Attendance

Barbara Bosanko	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Brenda Hochmuth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Kim Stephens	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Angie Brown	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Terry Hawkins	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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	Rachel Mathis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Angela Whidby	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Kathy Cooper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Bruce Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Carol Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Alton Fry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Penny Penn	<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Cindy Levi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 7:03 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 Barbara Bosanko, seconded by Kathy Cooper, passed unanimously.
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve the January 24 th , 2024 minutes by Angela Whidby, seconded by Carol Williams, passed unanimously.
Board Chair Report	Kent welcomed everyone with some fun stories of his super bowl trip to Las Vegas.
CEO Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As Georgia’s 2024 Legislative Session is quickly approaching crossover day, February 29th. Until then, we are watching proposed legislation move through the committee process and educating legislators on issues impacting behavioral health and IDD services. Mental Health Day at the capitol was held on January 24th and CSB Day on February 13th. At both events I sought opportunities to interact with as many of our local legislators as possible. On CSB Day I also left packets of information to the 22 legislators that touch our 13-county region. At this point, we are closely following these bills: HB883 - allows for the continuation of remote Board Meetings HB913 - support for EmPath Units in hospitals SB188 - formation of an IDD Reform and Innovation Commission. • Cindy helped our local massage therapy provider at the BHCC, Renova Spa, with a short marketing testimonial. They’re looking to expand their services into more businesses and asked that I share the positive impact of their services on our guests and employees. Additionally, the BHCC staff was excited to learn about “Art Therapy.” They are taking what they learned from the Art Therapist and implementing art as a means of expression at the BHCC. • The future of the Forsyth Whole Health Center is uncertain at this point. Forsyth Commissioners voted to move forward with construction of the Administration Building and Employee Wellness Center without the Whole Health Center. A “Listening Session” was held on the subject February 5th and 3 mental health stakeholder meetings are scheduled to discuss Forsyth County Mental Health Challenges on Feb. 22nd, Feb. 27th, and March 5th. They intend to finalize their decision on March 12th. • On February 12th our Executive Team and interested staff attended the University of North Georgia Mural Presentation in our Board Room. 7 students presented their ideas for the dining room at the BHCC. After deliberating well after the close of business a unanimous decision was to select the sunset over the mountain mural by Hannah H. Ty

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	<p>W. will also paint a smaller sunflower mural next to the exit door to the main lobby. They will begin to make it a reality in the coming months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After months of technical work behind the scenes the Avita Team created an online Electronic Incident Reporting System. A required training video, thanks to Cat Murphy is being utilized to train all our employees. This technology will move us away from paper forms and make processing and tracking of incidents much easier. Thanks to Cathy Ganter for spearheading this project and for the Care Management, Health & Safety, Information Technology, and Information Systems Departments for utilizing their expertise to develop this Incident Reporting System. • On February 15th I represented Avita at the Hall County Business Expo. It was a full house, and every booth was filled. Many members of the Hall County Community were in attendance and were interested in knowing more about the services offered by Avita. • HealthIE Georgia Partnership continues to move along. They are one step closer to beginning a mobile Medication Assisted Treatment service in our rural counties. A Nurse Practitioner will be driving a modified bus from place to place, providing this service. Stops will be made to Avita locations where in addition to receiving their medication, Avita counselors will also provide therapy to the individuals. • Avita entered into a Value-Based Performance contract with one of the Medicaid Care Management Organizations, Peach State. We will begin earning quarterly incentives based on keeping high-risk individuals healthy and reducing the number of required hospitalizations for mental health symptoms. These incentives will be in addition to our regular treatment service rate. • HOPE for A Drug Free Stephens recently applied for a SAMHSA Partnerships for Success Grant. Avita was written into the grant to provide a Certified Addiction Empowerment Specialist (CARES) for Stephens County. The focus is to extend resources available to individuals fighting addiction. • Avita is also partnering with Temple University to participate in a research study based on Behavior Activation. Individuals served by Avita have an opportunity to earn up to \$440 if they choose to participate in this study which focuses on improving mental health by increasing activity and engagement levels. • Avita is now the contracted Employee Assistance Provider for The City of Toccoa and the Stephens County Housing authority. The previous EAP is retiring and Avita was happy to pick up the business. Thanks to Lori Holbrook for working with these organizations to make this happen. • As the Psychiatry Residents from Northeast Georgia Medical Center move toward completion of their 2nd year as Residents, we are planning for their expansion of services to Avita in year #3. Once In Year #3, they will have a full physician license and will obtain their DEA license for prescribing medications. We are in discussions with one of the Residents who is interested in providing a Saturday morning Clinic at our Gainesville location. Dr. Cobiella is hoping that a few of the Residents will take a special interest in community mental health and make it their career choice in the future. • Georgia is getting closer to the distribution of the opioid settlement funds. Our state will receive \$638 million over the next 18 years. The state's share is \$479 million. Forty percent, or \$191.6 million will be distributed on a regional basis. Funds will be distributed based on grant applications. Regional Advisory Councils will review the grant applications and make recommendations to Commissioner Tanner, the Trustee for the Settlement. I have been selected to serve on the Region 1 Advisory Council which covers the 31 counties of north Georgia. There are clear strategies for the use of these funds to include: overdose reversals drugs like Naloxone, opioid use treatment programs, focus on pregnant and postpartum women, treatment for neonatal abstinence syndrome, recovery services, treatment of incarcerated population, prevention programs, syringe exchange programs and research on the effectiveness of abatement strategies. Generally, funds

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	<p>can be used for: prevention, treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and research & evaluation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An article appeared in the Gainesville Times on Feb. 16th regarding the poor quality of transportation service provided to the elderly and disabled by T&T Transportation, a contractor through the Georgia Department of Human Services. Numerous complaints regarding lack of dependability, vehicle maintenance issues, and lack of respect between drivers and their passengers were filed by both Avita and the Hall County Senior Center. Avita filed 70 complaints in just a 2-month period. We are hopeful that a new transportation provider will be placed under contract to provide this service. • Our IDD groups continue to get out into the community and work on projects. The Toccoa group enjoys bowling at the Clarkesville Lanes Bowling Center, The Lavonia group visited the Blue Haven Bee Company, and Gainesville celebrated MLK Jr. Day with posters. The Dahlonga Center is very proud of one of their participants, Beth. Living in a home behind her parent's house, she had plenty of space and freedom. When her parents' health began to decline, they felt that residential services would be a better long-term option for her. She moved into a Host Home in August 2023, and says she loves her new home. She enjoys attending church activities, playing with the dogs, and hanging out with her Host Home Provider and her roommate. Beth has now expressed interest in finding a part-time job. Congratulations Beth! • Over the last month, Bricelynn Palumbo, Brittany Dale, Roxy Cervantes, Ter-Laura Shields, Jolyn Matheson, Tammy Massey, Sabrina Headrick, Christine Eltz, Tracie Watts, Melanie Whitmarsh, Fabian Harper was recognized for going above and beyond. We thank all these employees for their dedication to Avita and for living out its mission.
Financial Update	<p>Greg Ball reviewed the following in his report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January saw a \$113,000 surplus. • Current year revenues are \$20,427,322 this is a 7.1% increase over last year. • Current year expenses are \$1.575 million (or 8.4%) above prior year expenses. • Current surplus fiscal year to date is \$135,000. • Our Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) continued to exceed the targets established by DBHDD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cash on Hand is 81 days—well above the 30-day minimum ○ Current Ratio – 10:1 ○ Days of Covered Expenses – 81 days –well above the minimum of 60 days ○ Long Term Debt Ratio – .15:1 – well below the maximum of 2.5:1
FY23 Audited Financial Statement	<p>Greg shared the results of the audit which made no operational adjustments to the financials. There were no mention of corrective actions.</p>
Strategic Plan Results CY23	<p>Cathy discussed and highlighted the results of the 4 page excel spreadsheet. There were no questions.</p>
Strategic Plan Proposed for CY24	<p>Cathy shared the minor differences and goals set for CY24 strategic plan. She went over a 4 page excel spreadsheet handout. Barbara Bosanko made a motion to approve the plan, seconded by Penny Penn, passed unanimously.</p>
Corporate Compliance Update	<p>Cathy reported the following data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total reports increased: 354 < 418 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Internal reports: 343 < 401, External reports: 11 < 17 ▪ Trends in report subject areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Areas of significant decrease: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Service Quality 189 >183 ▪ Areas the same: Fraud 0 = 0 ▪ Areas of significant increase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health and Safety 138 < 183, Management Practices 26 < 47 ▪ Business Practices 1 < 4, Work Environment Issues 0 < 1
Committee Reports	<p>Finance report by Brenda Hochmuth: Greg reviewed the annual audited financial report. He noted that there were no operational adjustments made to the financials. Greg also reviewed our</p>

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	<p>savings investments were we have an average of a 4.66% return on investment. Lastly, we discussed the Behavioral Health Core Outpatient Clinic’s Profit and Loss statements. Greg stated these typically run at a deficit due to reimbursement rates lacking.</p> <p>Governance report by Barbara Bosanko: They did not have a quorum but discussed the current legislation at the Georgia capitol. Allan shared he was going to send out a 14 question survey to the board of which 2 new questions were added this year.</p> <p>Community and Client Relations report by Penny Penn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are still in need of a Team Lead in Blairsville, but we do have an interview set for tomorrow. She was a DSP for us in Blairsville and then was gone for a while. ○ We are working to fill a residential coordinator position in Gainesville. We need a few DSP/CLS workers. One of our staff just went out on maternity leave unexpectedly today. We also have had some staff leave in Blairsville that we need to fill. We have a position in Toccoa that we are filling. ○ We are working on a DSP Day on April 26th to support and honor our DSP staff. ○ We did 84% of our services in the last quarter. ○ Our biggest issue is helping clients to with Medicaid redetermination. • Behavioral Health Outpatient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We were approached by the City of Toccoa to run their EAP program. ○ Healthy Georgia that provides medication assisted treatment is partnering with Avita to part their bus at Avita sites so we can provide the clinical services through this grant. ○ We are expanding to expand our Jail In-Reach program. ○ We are getting a 3rd co-responder in Forsyth. ○ We filled the Mental Health Court Counselor position in Hall. ○ We have a prescriber shortage right now and one of our nurses has finished school and is not going to be one of our prescribers. ○ We are starting campaign with our staff that is focused on suicide prevention. ○ Hannah and Lori met with the county leadership about the building in Blairsville that is in disrepair. • BHCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In December there was a client that was found unconscious in his room. EMS was called and attempts were made to revive him. He later died of cardiac arrest. He was only in the BHCC for 14 hours. No contraband was found. An investigation determined that Avita was not found negligent in this event. All staff followed procedure. ○ We had 25 clients that were sent to the hospital due to medical issues. There were 22 clients that were cleared in the ER and returned to the BHCC. Two were admitted to the hospital and one client passed away at the hospital. We had 1 staff that has to be taken to the hospital due to high BP. ○ There were not any medication errors with adverse effects. There were 40 medication errors without adverse effects. We are working staff to prevent errors. ○ Infection Control incidents – We had 1 client with Step that was sent to the ER. We had 1 new staff member that had a reactive TB test that was cleared after a chest x-ray. There was 1 client with HIV/AIDS or C.Diff that was sent to the ER for treatment. There wer 2 reports of staff testing positive for COVID. There were not client COVID positives reported. ○ Carelon audit score improved from the last audit but is still below the required 85%. We are working on continuing to address issues with medication documentation, identifying medication errors, and documenting suicidal risk and history. • Behavioral Health Specialty Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assertive Community Treatment – We have a new TL starting March 1st.
Announcements	<p>Kent, as chairman, after a brief survey and discussion of the room, announced a time change to start our committee and spotlight on service meetings to 5:30 p.m. and the normal Board meeting to start at 6:00 p.m. The members present were all in agreement and the Board Secretary was</p>

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	going to contact those in attendance to see if that was a great barrier to making the meetings for those not present.
Adjourn at 8:25 pm	Angela Whidby made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Barbara Bosanko, and they adjourned unanimously.

Kent Woerner

3/27/24

Presiding Officer Signature

Date Approved

Respectfully submitted,

Hariah Hutkowski

Hariah Hutkowski, Recording Clerk