

Avita Community Partners
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

DATE: April 26, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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	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 7:33 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 Sharon Bucek, passed unanimously.
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve the March 22, 2023 minutes by Barbara Bosanko, seconded by Terry Hawkins, passed unanimously.
Board Chair Report	Kent welcomed everyone. Kent informed everyone he sent a letter to the Governor regarding the IDD rate study findings.
CEO Report	<p>Cindy reviewed the following in her report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year’s legislative session ended on March 29th. HB520, the Mental health sequel Bill to HB 1013 from last year’s legislation didn’t move forward for a vote. No significant legislation impacting our work in the fields of behavioral health or intellectual/developmental disability services passed during this year’s session. Funding for a crisis bed capacity study and behavioral health workforce study were approved. There were also 500 new NOW/COMP Waiver slots approved. • Lights, Camera, Action..... Avita’s BHCC was transformed into a film set on April 5th. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) out of Washington D.C. is preparing to roll out marketing materials for the 988 mental health crisis phone line. They sent a film crew to our BHCC to shoot some clips to show where a person may go to receive services after calling 988. We’re excited to assist in delivering the message that it’s ok to call 988 for help. • The murals designed and painted by University of North Georgia art students are coming along. They are putting the finishing touches on the landscape scene in the Peer Living Room and recently began the welcoming sunshine at the entrance of the Temporary Observation Unit. • The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) completed their virtual accreditation survey of Avita March 29th – 31st. There were 2,560 standards reviewed with only 2 minor recommendations. One of our first aid kits had 2 items whose expiration date had passed. They also recommended we include boundaries for Peer Support Staff in our Ethical Standards. The team of 6 surveyors all shared numerous strengths that they identified during the survey. We will receive the full survey report in 6-8 weeks. We anticipate receiving a 3-year accreditation, the highest offered by CARF. • I presented before the Habersham County Budget Committee on March 29th. One of our Board members, Commissioner Bruce Palmer is on that committee. An overview of Avita services offered to Habersham County residents was presented to support our funding request.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting was held at Judge Gosselin’s office on April 3rd to discuss Avita’s participation in a Jail In-Reach Pilot Program in Hall County Jail. Commissioner Tanner, other DBHDD leadership explained the Pilot Program to Hall County Judges Gosselin and Deal, and Major Parks from the Hall County Jail. I committed to Avita’s participation in the Pilot Program, then submitted a Program Description and Budget to DBHDD for funding. Jail In-Reach services will be provided by an Avita counselor and forensic peer specialist. They will identify, engage, and assist individuals in connecting to mental health services while incarcerated and link them to necessary community resources upon release to ensure a successful community reentry. Annual funding for this program will be \$165,724. • The Rabun County Rotary Club heard all about Avita’s services during their April 6th meeting. I gave an overview of Avita, and Foy Tootle spoke about our Rabun Clubhouse. Commissioner Woerner was recognized as an Avita Board member. Our presentation was very well received, and several people stayed to speak with us following the meeting. One business owner expressed an interest in locating a sign language interpreter for one of his employees. I connected him with one. Another member shared that he has a son with a developmental disability and wanted to talk about starting a new housing option for individuals with IDD. Another important connection was made with the CEO of Mountain Lakes Medical Center. We briefly discussed how they handle BH patients in their Emergency Department. Lori Holbrook and I followed up by meeting with the leadership team from the hospital on April 21st. We educated them on the BHCC and provided everything they need to expeditiously move individuals in need of BH Crisis Services from their ED to our BHCC. • On March 7th, Jeremy Merritt attended the Dawson County Family Connection Collaborative. The focus of this meeting was building ways that the Connection (and it’s participating partners) can engage more with the community on community needs and education on services. • Spring is in the air for Intellectual and Developmentally Disability programs. Matthew and another client were taken to the Hartwell Safari this past month. Blaine was supported by his fellow peers at the Franklin County Special Olympics. The Dahlonega crew toured the Hardman Farm on March 20th to view the 1870 home followed by a lunch in the park. The Dahlonega Group had an early Easter celebration at a local park on March 31st playing corn hole and having some BBQ. Lastly, Blairsville broke out the shovels and cleaned up the flower bed with fresh mulch and a few new rose bushes. • On March 25th, Jeremy Merritt set up a table at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Cumming, GA) for a local community resource and volunteer fair. Jeremy was able to meet the public and discuss Avita services, as well as make connections with several local entities. • Additionally, on March 30th, Jeremy participated in a veteran’s resource fair at the local golf course. He was able to speak to veterans receiving Avita services through the VA contract, as well as Crisis Intervention. • The community partnership highlight of the month was on March 31st, when Anne Gambill (along with EVOLVE staff Grace Allen) ran the “Suicide Prevention” table at the Dawson County Junior High Teen Maze. This is an annual event that gives the students true-to-life scenarios as they navigate the “maze” of consequence and result of their decisions (good or bad). • March welcomed two new hires for the HELP Court of Kimberly Mosely (CPS) and Emily Bridges (CM). A new counselor, Fabian began employment in April. HELP Court is very excited to have them on board, and there is an ongoing process to define their roles both within Avita and with the HELP Court. This has opened the door to innovative thinking, assisting the HELP Court clients live to their full potential. • The following staff were recognized for going above and beyond over the past month: Joey Lyons, Leslie Clark, Stacie Rushing, Daja Perry, Olivia Knox, AnnMarie Griffith, Tanya Hunt

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	<p>and Logan Nichols. Thanks to these staff who focus on quality of services provided by Avita and embody our mission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cindy finished by referencing her report 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"> • March saw a \$72,000 surplus. • Current year revenues are \$3.3 million (or 15.5%) above prior year revenues. • Current year expenses are \$3 million (or 14.3%) 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 87 days– still well above the 30 day minimum and 4 days more from last month ○ Current Ratio – 8.7:1 ○ Days of Covered Expenses – 82 days –still well above the minimum of 60 days and 1 day more than last month ○ Long Term Debt Ratio – .17:1 – well below the maximum of 2.5:1
HR Quarterly Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allan Harden shared the HR Report. Main points included: FTE: 385, FT Turnover is 18.21% at the end of March, PT Turnover was 45.16%, and combined Turnover rate was 20.81%. These totals closely matched 2022’s Turnover rates. We have 18 FT vacancies at the BHCC and 4 PT ones. All other programs Avita has 27 BH FT, 6 BH PT, and 2 DD FT positions vacant. We had new hires of 28 individuals in the quarter. We also had 10 workers compensation claims: but all minor.
“At large” selection of Board member from the Avita Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alton Fry came to observe the meeting and share his experience and interest in serving on the Board. He was introduced by Bruce Palmer. Some of Alton’s points included that he served 1 year in prison and wrote 3 books concerning his drug use. • Kent Woerner hopes to bring another person of interest next month.
Adjourn at 8:15 pm	<p>Penny Penn made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Barbara Bosanko, and they adjourned unanimously.</p>

Kent Woerner

5/24/23

Presiding Officer Signature

Date Approved

Respectfully submitted,

Hariah Hutkowski

Hariah Hutkowski, Recording Clerk