

Avita Community Partners
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

DATE: September 25, 2024	TIME: 6:07 PM
PLACE: Avita Administrative Offices and Zoom	PRESIDING: Penny Penn

Attendance

Barbara Bosanko	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	UNFILLED	<input 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	Rachel Mathis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Samantha Turner	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Kathy Cooper	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Bruce Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Angela Whidby	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Bo Garrison	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Penny Penn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	David White	<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	Carol Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Monika Knight	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	UNFILLED	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Kent Woerner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Cindy Levi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Michael Foust	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Allan Harden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Rae Ann Straub	<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 6:07 PM by Penny Penn.
Determine Quorum	A quorum was present with 9 out of 16 members.
Approval of Agenda	Motion to approve the agenda made by Angela Whidby, seconded by Kim Stephens, passed unanimously.
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve the August 28, 2024 minutes by Angela Whidby, seconded by Kim Stephens and it passed unanimously.
Board Chair Report	Penny had nothing to report.
CEO Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The annual Georgia Gathering was held at Unicoi State Park September 5th – 6th. Avita was actively involved in the planning and facilitating of this self-advocate conference. Ten Avita representatives were in attendance including self-advocates and the staff supporting them. This year we walked away with 2 prestigious awards. Phyllis Turner received the Dottie Adams Direct Support Professional Award for excellence in person centered practices and Billy Gannon received the Ambassador of Light Award for self-advocacy. Congratulations to Phyllis and Billy! The Georgia Association of Community Service Boards (GACSB), our Trade Association is going through some changes since Strategic Healthcare Partners discontinued their management contract and The Capitol Strategies Group discontinued its governmental affairs contract with GACSB. On September 26th, an emergency GACSB meeting has been called to vote on the selection of a new management company and governmental affairs partner. I'd like to provide some facility updates. Renovations have begun at Avita's new location in Toccoa. All restrooms are being remodeled. Ceiling tile is being replaced, new flooring installed and the interior painted. The parking lot is also being expanded to accommodate our agency vehicles. After a thorough search of available properties in Towns and Union Counties, Michael and I met with Commissioner Paris from Union County regarding their plans for the building we currently occupy on Hunt Martin Street. Over the last few years, we have experienced problems with rodents, roof leaks, and sewage blockages. We were informed that Commissioner Paris planned to have the building demolished in the Spring. At the conclusion of our meeting, he agreed to have an engineering firm evaluate the structure and make recommendations. Based on their recommendations, the future of the building will be determined. I was also able to connect with Braden Edwards of Carry-On Trailer Corporation regarding the property on Jeffrey Street in Lavonia that we have leased from them for several years. Mr. Edwards indicated that the estimates they

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	<p>received to repair the storm damage ranged from \$75,000 - \$100,000 and that Carry-On wasn't planning to invest those funds in a building they weren't using. He agreed to discuss the company's plans for the building with their corporate office and get back with me. I expressed that we were interested in continued use of the building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remodeling of the autism classrooms at the Mabry Road location in Gainesville is complete. The staff, individuals served, and their families are pleased with the new look to their space. Additionally, the work at the Behavioral Health Crisis Center is complete. The Fiberglass Reinforced Panels have been installed in the IDD section and the outdoor space off the IDD section is also complete. • Direct Support Professional (DSP) week was September 9th through the 13th and our DSPs were recognized and celebrated by their supervisors. In addition, DBHDD recognized 2 of our DSPs, Jazmine Whitaker Garrett and Gabriela Vilchis for their outstanding work. • Jennifer Hibbard, CEO of ViewPoint Health and I were selected to represent Georgia at the QualiFacts Executive Summit in Nashville held September 15th-17th. QualiFacts brought together 40 executives from across the U.S. representing agencies that utilize their electronic health record. They informed us of upcoming new features and solicited input on what is working well and what can use improvement. • On August 13th, Jeremy Merritt spent time at The Place's (Forsyth County) food bank. He set up a small table with Avita information, but mostly connected with the staff and the clients present. The goal, as set forth by The Place and Jeremy, is to make Avita a regular staple at their food banks to better reach community members in need. • Congratulations to Avita's Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team for their performance during the recent Fidelity monitoring review. Our team scored very well on the Dartmouth Assertive Community Treatment Scale, receiving a total score of 117, which is 2 points higher than last year. • Kevin Hines, an inspirational speaker on the subject of suicide prevention held an event at the Banks County High School on Sept 18th and the Franklin County High School on Sept. 19th. Thanks to our Board members Carol Williams and Angela Whidby for attending these events. Grace Allen and I also presented the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Training to Franklin County Middle School teachers on Sept. 19th and their students on Sept. 23rd and 24th. • Staff from Avita were asked to present on our Jail In-Reach Program at the Behavioral Health and Law Conference sponsored by DBHDD at Jekyll Island Sept. 25th – 27th. Josh Bell, Tyra Woods, Lori Holbrook and I are at the conference representing Avita. Our Hall County Program has demonstrated some great outcomes by decreasing jail recidivism rates and connecting individuals with on-going supports and services. Our newest Jail In-Reach program has started in the Rabun County Jail thanks to federal grant funding obtained through HealthIE Georgia. Avita Board Member, Chief Deputy Joe Perkins of the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department requested Jail In-Reach information to include in a grant application. We are hopeful that funding will be obtained to start a Jail In-Reach program in Forsyth County. • We thank our Board Members for assisting us in making local connections in our communities. Sheriff Thomas from Franklin County shared with Angela Whidby last week that they had a 19-year-old with autism in their jail who really needed treatment. She connected him with me, and we were able to get this young man into Avita's Behavioral Health Crisis Center. During this process, I also spoke with Lieutenant Spencer. We were able to arrange a tour of the BHCC for him and several of his staff. Thanks for helping us make the connection Angela. Over the next few months, we will contact all the Sheriff's Departments in our area to educate them on the services Avita has to offer. • Unfortunately, we are still waiting for the implementation of the new IDD reimbursement rates. Although the legislators and CMS approved the rates and funding, we are still waiting for the rate table updates, Provider Manual changes, and the Prior Authorization updates before we will receive these funds. Additionally, the Behavior Health rate

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	<p>increases are still pending with CMS. This is having a negative financial impact on all service providers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the last month, Catrice Collins, Alayna Beasley, Alexis Hernandez, Sarah Prichard and Hariah Hutkowski were 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"> August saw a \$38,000 deficit. Current year revenues are \$720,000 above prior year's revenues to total \$6.426 million. This is a 12.6% increase. The month of August total was \$3.228 million. Current year expenses are \$732,000 above prior year's expenses to total \$6.381 million. This is a 13% increase over last year. The month of August was \$3.266 million. Current surplus fiscal year to date is \$45,194. Our Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) continued to exceed the targets established by DBHDD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash on Hand is 77 days—well above the 30-day minimum Current Ratio – 10:1 Days of Covered Expenses – 74 days—well above the minimum of 60 days Long Term Debt Ratio – .15:1 – well below the maximum of 2.5:1
Governance Committee Proposal	<p>Angela Whidby made a motion to establish that the determination method for selecting the 4 elected or appointed officials from the 13 counties of Avita be modified to include the total contribution from the county (including cash and in-kind contributions) to the community service board in the prior fiscal year. Each county's total contribution (cash and in-kind) is to be reviewed at the end of each fiscal year to determine the counties that are the top 4 contributors. Any change in the makeup or the 4 elected or appointed officials that is required by the new ranking is to be effective January 1 of the following year. It was seconded by Kim Stephens. Passed unanimously.</p>
Executive Session: CEO contract/performance review	<p>Angela Whidby made a motion to go into closed session, seconded by Rachel Mathis at 6:58 pm. Unanimous vote. Angela Whidby, seconded by Brenda Hochmuth, to come out of closed session at 7:09 pm. Unanimous vote.</p> <p>Motion made by Angela Whidby, seconded by Kim Stephens, to grant the highest rating for CEO, Cindy Levi, on her job performance of a 4 out of 4. Prior to a unanimous vote Penny Penn read off many compliments from the board about leadership, representing Avita, and other good character traits.</p>
Scheduling date/time of NOV/DEC meeting	<p>Discussion ensued about who was available when. It was determined that Wednesday, Dec. 11th at 5:30 for Spotlight on Services and 6 pm regular board meeting was the best time. The Board Secretary will plan a meeting for that date and time.</p>
Announcements	<p>none</p>
Adjourn at 7:15 pm	<p>A motion made by Angela Whidby, seconded by Brenda Hochumuth, to adjourn and it was unanimous.</p>

Penny Penn

10/23/24

Presiding Officer Signature, Penny Penn

Date Approved

Respectfully submitted,

Hariah Hutkowski

Hariah Hutkowski, Recording Clerk