

Avita Community Partners  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

DATE: September 28, 2022	TIME: 7:00 PM
PLACE: Avita Administrative Offices and Zoom	PRESIDING: Kent Woerner, Chair

Attendance

Seth Barnes, Jr.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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	Avery Nix	<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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Rachel Mathis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Shelly Echols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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	Sammy Reece	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Shanna Prather	<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	Hannah Quinn	<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	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 7:01 PM by Kent Woerner.
Determine Quorum	A quorum was present with 11 out of 18 members.
Approval of Agenda	Motion to approve the agenda by Penny Penn, and seconded by Seth Barnes, Jr., passed unanimously.
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve the August 24, 2022 minutes by Penny Penn, seconded by Angela Whidby, passed unanimously.
Board Chair Report	Kent welcomed everyone with nothing new to report.
Oath of Office	Shanna Prather, from Union County, recited and signed her oath of office. The term will end on June 30, 2024.
CEO Report	<p>Cindy reviewed the following in her report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Georgia Providers of IDD Services are still awaiting payment of the 5% rate increase which was effective July 1, 2022. This is impacting the financial position of over 500 agencies in the state.</li> <li>• The extended fencing was installed at the Behavioral Health Crisis Center.</li> <li>• Avita was “in the news” over the past month. The Milton Herald newspaper and Georgia Trend Magazine ran articles.</li> <li>• Avita was very well represented at this year’s Georgia Gathering, a conference for self-advocates held at Unicoi State Park September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Twelve staff and 14 Avita self-advocates were in attendance.</li> <li>• As we focus on expanding our workforce, Avita’s Human Resource Department has been participating in many job fairs over the past month. Some of the job fairs are specialized based on a department, while others are generally available to students of all majors. Avita was represented at the following career fairs: Georgia Gwinnett, Georgia Southern, Dalton State, Georgia College and State, University of North Georgia (Gainesville and Dahlonega), Hall County Chamber of Commerce, University of South Carolina, Appalachian State, University of North Carolina – Asheville, Middle Georgia College, University of Georgia, and Lanier Tech – Cumming.</li> <li>• September is Suicide Prevention and National Recovery month. There are many events happening around our area in both September and October. Avita is represented at these events, raising awareness to treatment options we offer and sharing the message of Hope. A few of the events from the past month include: the Northeast Georgia Recovery Fest, Rally for Recovery, Hall County Recovery, Toccoa Overdose Awareness Candlelight Vigil, and Banks County Fall Festival and Health Fair.</li> <li>• The University of North Georgia hosted the REED (Regional Education and Economic Development) Summit at their Dahlonega campus on September 20<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year’s Summit was “Transforming Healthcare in North Georgia.” A panel of presenters including Kevin Tanner, chair of the Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission, Adrian Johnson,</li> </ul>

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	<p>Deputy Director for DBHDD, and Cindy Levi discussed Georgia’s mental health crisis, answering questions by the facilitator and the attendees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Senate Study Committee on People with IDD and the Waiver Process held its 3<sup>rd</sup> of 5 meetings on September 21<sup>st</sup> at the Rome Civic Center. Cindy presented to the committee.</li> <li>• Avita staff Cindy and Grace provided a Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention presentation to the Toccoa Senior Center on September 27<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• After almost 6 months of negotiating, we are awaiting final signature from Alexander Properties Group on a settlement agreement after our claims of violating “The Fair Housing Act” by discriminating against the individuals served by Avita at The Pines of Lanier apartment complex.</li> <li>• Over the past month, 2 presentations were made regarding Avita’s services during County Commissioner Meetings: Dawson and Towns County.</li> <li>• The Department of Justice sent a subpoena to produce data to Avita regarding the services provided through our APEX Program (counseling in schools). When all the reports were completed and everything compiled, there were over 16,000 pages of documents submitted.</li> <li>• On September 30<sup>th</sup>, Avita will celebrate the career of a woman who has dedicated her life to serving others, Polly Thomas. Polly will be retiring after 27 ½ years of public service through Avita.</li> <li>• The following staff have been recognized for going “Above and Beyond” over the past month: Rae Marie Emans, Jolyn Matheson, Diana Ward, Kenslei Kripner, Diana Cortes, Michele Malone, Victoria Williams, Michelle Brown, Kristina Royal, Emily Brown, Anne Campbell, and Lisa Cabe. Thanks to these employees for their dedication to Avita’s mission.</li> <li>• She finished by sharing some additional happenings, upcoming events and a few more success stories.</li> </ul>
Financial Update	<p>Greg Ball reviewed the following in his report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August saw a \$10,000 surplus.</li> <li>• Current year revenues are \$445,000 (or 9.2%) above prior year revenues.</li> <li>• Current expenses continue to be nearly spot on to our projections.</li> <li>• Current year expenses are \$688,000 (or 15.1%) above prior year levels.</li> <li>• Our Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) continued to exceed the targets established by DBHDD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cash on Hand is 85 days– still well above the 30 day minimum</li> <li>○ Current Ratio – 6.4:1</li> <li>○ Days of Covered Expenses – 66 days –still well above the minimum of 60 days</li> <li>○ Long Term Debt Ratio – .12:1 – same as last month – remains the same as we have minimal long-term debt</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Permanent Supportive Housing Contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A motion was made to approve the contracts GA0176L4B012107 and GA0051L4B012114 by Brenda Hardy, and seconded by Seth Barnes, Jr. The motion passed unanimously.</li> </ul>
Closed Session: CEO Performance Review and Litigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A motion to go into closed session pursuant to O.C.G.A 50-14-3 (6) and litigation was made by Angela Whidby and seconded by Shelly Echols, passed unanimously.</li> <li>• Out of Closed Session: Motion made by Angela Whidby to approve a 3.9 rating for Cindy Levi on her performance evaluation and seconded by Sherry Estep. It passed unanimously.</li> </ul>
Adjourn at 8:30 pm	Sherry Estep made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Penny Penn, and they adjourned unanimously.

*Kent Woerner*

10/26/22

Presiding Officer Signature

Date Approved

Respectfully submitted,

*Hariah Hutkowski*

Hariah Hutkowski, Recording Clerk