

Avita Community Partners
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

DATE: November 29 th , 2023	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Angie Brown	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Terry Hawkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Samantha Turner	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Sharon Bucek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Rachel Mathis	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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	Bruce Palmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 7:00 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 Carol Williams, passed unanimously.
Approval of Minutes	Motion to approve the October 25 th , 2023 minutes by Barbara Bosanko, seconded by Brenda Hochmuth, passed unanimously.
Board Chair Report	Kent welcomed everyone and shared some more progress on Rabun County's van AND bus delivery of medications.
CEO Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The month of October ended with a focus on Suicide Prevention in Franklin and Habersham Counties. In 3 days, October 25th – 27th, Grace Allen and I presented the Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention Program to 478 students. The audience was 6th grade students in Franklin County and 9th graders in Habersham. The students were very engaged as they learned the signs and symptoms of depression which may lead to thoughts of suicide and how they can help someone feeling this way. • Also, rounding out Recovery month, Jeremy Merritt participated in an event focused on growing awareness of the substance abuse struggles in Dawson County. In addition to his informational table, Jeremy sat on a panel where he got to discuss his perspective as a clinician and take questions from the audience. He made the Dawson County newspaper! • The Georgia Association of Community Service Board's 25th Annual Leadership Conference was held on October 29th – 31st at Legacy Lodge on Lake Lanier Islands. Board members Bruce Palmer, Brenda Hochmuth, and Kent Woerner all participated with members of the Avita leadership team. Educational opportunities were offered based on the topics of: Leadership, Board Governance, Behavioral Health and Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities. In addition to learning, we also had a nice dinner and enjoyed playing music bingo at the Twisted Oar Restaurant on the lake. • During the same time, Kelly Stockdale, Teaira Tucker, and Rhonda Wetherbee attended the Southeast Regional Institute on Deafness Conference to promote Avita, network, and learn more through attending numerous workshops. The theme for this conference was Making Connections to Build Bridges because Working Together: We Create Change! The training focused on Rehabilitation, Education, Technology, Employment Workshops, Mental Health, Regulations, Advocacy, Interpreting, College Programs, Communication Aids, and Captioning. Over 400 professionals attended this national conference held in Charlotte, North Carolina.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hazelden Betty Ford Training Center hosted an Opioid Symposium at the Emory Conference Center on November 2nd. Cathy Ganter, Dr. Praturi, and I expanded our understanding of treatment options for those addicted to opiates. The presenters were very knowledgeable professionals. • Teaira Tucker, a counselor from Avita’s Deaf Services Team attended a Deaf Field Day event at Camp Rock in Valdosta. The event was for deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind students of public schools (from elementary to high school) in south GA to attend fun events, games, and meet/learn about other organizations in GA. The goal is to promote deaf culture and social growth for students. Also, it’s a great opportunity for Valdosta State University students/interpreting students to network, train and gain skills in interpreting. • On November 6th and 28th, per our strategic plan for the year, I presented to the Commissioners of White and Hart Counties. Thank you to Sharon Bucek who joined me in White County. The presentations were very well received and positive comments were made regarding the breadth of services provided by Avita. Chairman Tucker of White County requested a tour of the BHCC in the new year. Two presentations remain on December 12th in Stephens County and December 21st in Dawson County. • Halloween Fun and Fall activities were plentiful in October. Autism Services had a Halloween project. The IDD group from Toccoa enjoyed going to the Currahee Military Weekend event in Toccoa. Blairsville IDD had a fun day at Burt’s Pumpkin Farm and participated in some costume excitement. Hartwell, Toccoa, and Lavonia all came together for the ARC Fall Festival. Gainesville IDD took their gentlemen to Warbington Farms. Demorest IDD had their costume on too! Dahlonega IDD went to Uncle Shucks that is 15-acre corn maze and pumpkin patch in Dawsonville. • Congratulations to Howard Stroud and Avita’s Supported Employment Team. During a recent Fidelity Monitoring visit by DBHDD, the team scored the highest level of fidelity, the exemplary level. They were commended for high employment rates and for assisting individuals in obtaining jobs with a variety of employers based on the individual’s interests and strengths. It was also noted that the team promotes the program with the support of Avita’s Executive Team by connecting with both internal and external stakeholders. • Using COVID supplemental funds, the Toccoa CST team took 16 clients on two separate days to Reins of Life equestrian therapy facility in Eastanollee. The clients learned how to groom, lead, and work with horses. They also painted the horses! The clients loved it! • The Blairsville office team, along with assistance from some community partners spruced up the outside entryway to the center. Unfortunately, we are experiencing some serious rodent problems there and are working with the Union County Maintenance staff and a professional pest control company to get this under control. • Last month, Tammy Herron, Chana Flanagan, Melissa Philips, Kylee Killian, Jasmine Galison, Cherrie Watson, Leah Maloof, and Barbara Marshall were recognized for going above and beyond. We thank all these employees for her 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"> • October saw a \$29,000 surplus. • Current year revenues are \$11.519 million. This is 8.3% higher than last year. • Current year expenses are \$11.273 million. This is 7.9% higher than last year. • Current surplus fiscal year to date is \$246,000. • Our Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) continued to exceed the targets established by DBHDD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cash on Hand is 84 days—well above the 30-day minimum ○ Current Ratio – 10:1 ○ Days of Covered Expenses – 84 days –well above the minimum of 60 days ○ Long Term Debt Ratio – .17:1 – well below the maximum of 2.5:1 and the same as last month

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Corporate Compliance Quarterly Report	Cathy Ganter reviewed <u>Patterns & Trends</u> Number of reports: Internal reports decreased – 113 > 102 External reports increased – 6 < 8 Subject area increases: Management Practices – 10 < 18 Business Practices – 0 < 1 Subject area decreases: Health and Safety – 53 > 47 Service Quality – 56 > 44 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95% of the findings were substantiated. • There was a total of 118 reports submitted for Q3. (8 external, 110 internal)
Strategic Plan Update	Cathy discussed the spreadsheet distributed with the updated figures for Q3 that included finishing up goals for spotlight on services and board attendance. She also covered that our financial section is all passing. No questions were asked.
HUD grants GA0176L4B012208 AND GA0051L4B012215	An overview of the grants was shared with the board. There was a motion to accept the HUD contracts GA0176L4B012208 (\$294,828) AND GA0051L4B012215 (\$158,256) made by Barbara Bosanko, seconded by Carol Williams, and passed unanimously.
Announcements	Kent thanked Cindy for presenting a plaque at GACSB Leadership Conference for his year of service as the chair.
Adjourn at 7:52 pm	Barbara Bosanko made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bruce Palmer, and they adjourned unanimously.

Kent Woerner

1/24/24

Presiding Officer Signature

Date Approved

Respectfully submitted,

Hariah Hutkowski

Hariah Hutkowski, Recording Clerk