

ARWDB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

August 13, 2025, Meeting Notes

Members Present

Ms. Autumn Andrews
Mr. Jamal Jessie
Ms. Kristy Smith
Mr. Mike Alexander
Ms. Sara Ray

Members Absent

Mr. James Jackson
Mr. Robert Duffield
Mr. Trey Ragsdale

Quorum met

ARWDB Board Co-Chairman, Sara Ray, called the Committee meeting to order at 09:36 a.m.

Workforce Director Rob LeBeau welcomed attendees and introduced **Brett Lacy** as the new Managing Workforce Director.

1. ARWDB membership:
 - Review meeting attendance: Members are currently in good standing. Concerns were noted regarding the number of excused absences.
 - Suggestion: Convene with the Nominations Committee to review bylaws language related to proxies and/or limits on excused absences.
 - Board Membership: The Board is back to full membership with 25 members.
2. Board Meeting Action Items:
 - Approve the certification of career center locations for PY 2025
 - Discussion was held on the new delivery model, proposed locations, and access points.
Sara Ray made the motion, and Kristy Smith seconded. Passed unanimously.
 - Information Item: Rob LeBeau provided information on the updated requirements/processes for LWDBs to confirm work authorization and eligibility to receive “public benefits”, including WIOA services and programs.
3. Legislative Update: Provided by Rob LeBeau
 - ASWA: Nearly passed but fell short.
 - Federal Budget: The President’s budget proposes merging the three workforce funding streams into a block grant at the state level; the Senate version maintains separate funding streams.

- Short-Term Pell Grants: New provisions enable students to use Pell Grant funds for short-term training programs, expanding access to workforce development opportunities beyond traditional academic programs.
 - SNAP Work Requirements: Bret Lacy explained that under the “Big Beautiful Bill,” more SNAP recipients will be required to participate in training programs to keep their benefits.
4. Budget:
- No action items on the agenda
 - All Youth funds: partial Adult and Dislocated Worker funds received
 - Quest Grant Funds – There are still \$400k funds that needs to be spent but 9/30. Phyllis Jackson is confident all funds will be expended; up to \$100,00 may be transferred to Cobb if necessary.
 - No new awards. Potential opportunities include a TCSG Apprenticeship Grant and a Navy Grant.
5. Program updates:
- Center Location Moves
 - Douglas – Move is 95% complete. Outstanding items include exterior signage.
 - Gwinnett – Relocation planned for early September
6. Upcoming ARWDB Meetings:
- Next Board meetings – October 22, 2025, and December 3, 2025
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The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.