

ARWDB MEETING

August 13, 2025 - Meeting Summary

Members Present

Mr. Leon Allen
Ms. Autumn Andrews
Ms. Sonia Carruthers
Ms. Mandy Chapman
Mr. Fred Dawkins
Mr. Joel Domineck, Jr.
Ms. Margie Ensley via Teams
Mr. Anthony Ford
Mr. Tim Hemans
Mr. Jamal Jessie
Ms. Norma Marquez via Teams
Ms. Bridgette McDonald
Ms. Donna Mullins
Ms. Stephanie Rooks
Ms. Kristy Smith
Mr. Jonathan Turner via Teams

Members Absent

Ms. Tonya Byrd
Ms. Deirdra Cox
Mr. Robert Duffield
Mr. James Jackson III
Ms. Tangela Jones
Mr. Leonardo McClarty
Mr. Trey Ragsdale
Ms. Sara Ray
Mr. Aundra Walthall

ARWDB Board Co-Chair, Trey Ragsdale, called the Committee meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

1. Welcome

Jamal Jessie, Vice Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Quorum was met.

2. Public Comment

There was none.

3. Presentation

Metro Atlanta Chamber's Justin Haight provided an overview of the Chamber's focus on workforce development, including talent attraction and retention strategies, networking programs, and various grant-funded initiatives. He highlighted the success of the Interns After 5 program and the ATL Talent Collaborative.

4. Introduction

Jamal Jessie introduced Brett Lacy as the incoming Managing Director, who shared his background and expressed his enthusiasm for continuing the strong work in workforce development.

Board Members introduced themselves and their length of service on the board

5. Action Items

- Consent Agenda
 - Meeting summary from May 14, 2025, meeting – Stephnie Rooks made a motion; Bridget McDonald seconded; summary was accepted unanimously.
- Approve the certification of career center locations for PY 2025. Rob LeBeau, ARC, explained the new service delivery model and proposed locations and access points. Stephanie Rooks made a motion; Kristy Smith seconded; the center certifications were accepted unanimously.

6. Information Items

- Rob LeBeau, ARC, provided information on the updated requirements/processes for LWDBs to confirm work authorization and eligibility to receive “public benefits”, including WIOA services and programs. This will not be a major change to our current service delivery model, but it will require some adjustments.
- Lisa Davis, ARC, provided an update on the Building Pathways program. To date, there have been six EVSE cohorts and two heat-pump cohorts. A seventh EVSE cohort started earlier this month, and another heat pump is scheduled for next month.
- Lisa Davis, ARC, provided an update on Building Georgia. We continue to make progress with this initiative. Staff is working with TCSG to develop a training program for Q4. RocketCamp is working on the finishing touches of the updated website.
- Lisa Davis, ARC, announced that the Construction Ready Program, in collaboration with State Representative Marvin Lim, Founder and CEO of Lucky Shoals Community Organization, starts on August 18th. The 20-day training program will be held at Harmony Grove United Methodist Church in Lilburn.

7. ARWDB Reports

One Stop Manager’s Report

- Christine Grigsby, Equus, gave the report.
- There was a decline in the number of One Stop Center visits from June to July, but a significant increase in virtual contacts.
- Christine mentioned several upcoming events.

Executive Committee

Jamal Jessie gave the report. He briefly summarized the Executive Committee’s discussion, including board membership, legislative updates, and the short-term Pell Grant update.

Next Gen Committee

Marsharee O'Connor, ARC, provided an update on the Next Gen Committee's activities, including funding allocations, provider updates, and the development of a strategic plan.

Nominations Committee

Did not meet

Business Service Advisory Group

Henry Charlot, ARC, provided an update on the Business Services Task Force's recent meeting, new member orientation, and ongoing training projects.

Career Services Advisory Group

Did not meet

Directors Report

- Georgia's unemployment rate and labor force participation rate this year both continue to be below the national average
- Performance was met or exceeded for PY25
- Even with funding continuing to be reduced, we met all our obligations.
- Rob provided an update on his Priority Activities for 2025

Rob LeBeau announced that registration for the State of the Region is open. Workforce will purchase a table. Anyone interested should email Brett.

Jamal Jessie closed the meeting by recognizing Rob LeBeau's 25 years of service with ARC and wishing him well in his retirement.

Next full board meeting will be on October 22, 2025, at ARC.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.