

## **ARWDB MEETING**

*December 3, 2025 - Meeting Summary*

### **Members Present**

Ms. Autumn Andrews  
Ms. Sonia Carruthers via Teams  
Ms. Mandy Chapman via Teams  
Mr. Fred Dawkins via Teams  
Mr. Robert Duffield via Teams  
Ms. Margie Ensley  
Mr. Anthony Ford  
Mr. James Jackson III  
Mr. Jamal Jessie via Teams  
Ms. Norma Marquez via Teams  
Ms. Bridgette McDonald via Teams  
Mr. Trey Ragsdale  
Ms. Sara Ray  
Ms. Kristy Smith

### **Members Absent**

Mr. Leon Allen  
Ms. Tonya Byrd  
Ms. Deirdra Cox  
Mr. Joel Domineck, Jr.  
Mr. Tim Hemans  
Ms. Tangel Jones  
Mr. Leonardo McClarty  
Ms. Donna Mullins  
Ms. Stephanie Rooks  
Mr. Jonathan Turner  
Mr. Aundra Walthall

ARWDB Board Co-Chairman, Trey Ragsdale, called the Committee meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

#### **1. Welcome**

Trey Ragsdale, Co-Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting, and Board Members in the room introduced themselves.

Quorum was met.

#### **2. Public Comment**

There was none.

#### **3. Presentation**

Kevin Carmichael of Partnership Gwinnett provided an overview of Gwinnett County's economic development initiatives, workforce expansion, and key strategic partnerships, emphasizing major projects, talent pipeline development, and community redevelopment efforts. Andrew Hickey, also with Partnership Gwinnett, responded to participant questions.

#### **4. Action Items**

- Consent Agenda
  - Meeting summary from the August 13, 2025, meeting – Mandy Chapman made a motion; Anthony Ford seconded; the summary was accepted unanimously.
- Approve the certification of career center locations for PY 2025. Brett Lacy, ARC, explained the certification of the final access points in Cherokee and Henry Counties. Anthony Ford made a motion; Mandy Chapman seconded; the center certifications were accepted unanimously.

- Approve the Updates to Six Next Gen Policies. Brett Lacy, ARC, indicated the Next Gen Committee reviewed and adopted the six policies, including definitions for additional assistance, documentation for high poverty areas, supportive services, incentive limits, work experience, and youth eligibility, with most changes aligning with state and federal updates and two policies increasing financial support for participants

## 5. Information Items

- Brett Lacy, ARC, provided tentative dates for next year. Most dates coincide with ARC Board days. The March meeting will need to be rescheduled due to the NAWB conference.
- Brett Lacy, ARC, provided an overview of the Federal and State Legislative landscape.
- Lisa Davis, ARC, provided an update on the Building Pathways program. The program is still on target with the grant goals. All deadlines for quarterly reports were met.
- Lisa Davis, ARC, provided an update on Building Georgia. Staff have made significant progress, including collaborating with TCSG and GDOT to finalize the curriculum and identifying employers with job opportunities anticipated in Q1.
- Phyllis Jackson, ARC, The Construction Ready program saw 23-24 individuals complete training, with over half gaining employment, and plans are underway for another fast-track cohort to support upcoming data center projects in Douglas County.

## 6. ARWDB Reports

### One Stop Manager's Report (Carol Edwards)

Carol Edwards gave the report. She reported consistent customer engagement metrics, highlighted new partnerships with IC K Relief and Wise Tech Solutions, and described successful skills training for adults 50+, as well as ongoing collaboration with community organizations

### Executive Committee

Sara Ray gave the report. She briefly summarized the Executive Committee's discussion, noting that all board members are in good standing and that a board retreat may be scheduled.

### Next Gen Committee

Marsharee O'Connor, ARC, shared an update on the Next Gen Committee's recent work, which included revising policies, reviewing funding allocations, and providing updates on providers.

### Nominations Committee

Did not meet

### Business Service Advisory Group

Henry Charlot, ARC, reported on the Business Services Task Force's recent meeting, where members discussed the upcoming 2026 IWT Proposal release and the \$500,000 SAEF Grant Award.

### 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 PY24
- Performance was met or exceeded in all metrics except one for PY25
- Brett provided an update on his Priority Activities for 2025

Next full board meeting will be on March 25, 2026.

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The meeting was adjourned at 12:30.