

ARWDB MEETING

May 13, 2026 - Meeting Summary

Mr. Leon Allen	Ms. Deirdra Cox
Ms. Autumn Andrews	Ms. Margie Ensley
Ms. Tonya Byrd via Teams	Ms. Norma Marquez
Ms. Sonia Carruthers	Mr. Jonathan Turner
Ms. Mandy Chapman via Teams	Mr. Aundra Walthall
Mr. Joel Domineck, Jr.	
Mr. Robert Duffield	
Mr. James Jackson III	
Mr. Jamal Jessie via Teams	
Ms. Bridgette McDonald via Teams	
Mr. Leonardo McClarty	
Ms. Donna Mullins	
Mr. Trey Ragsdale	
Ms. Sara Ray	
Ms. Kristy Smith	

ARWDB Board Co-Chairman, Sara Ray, called the Committee meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

1. Welcome

Sara Ray, 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

Anne Carpenter, Chief Research & Innovation Officer for the Office of Research & Innovation for ARC, provided an overview of the Agency's Economic Mobility strategy, Opportunity Rising.

4. Action Items

• Consent Agenda

- Meeting summary from the December 3, 2025, meeting – Trey Ragsdale made a motion; James Jackson seconded; the summary was accepted unanimously.

- **Approve the PY26 Budget.** Brett Lacy, ARC, explained that this is an estimated budget and there may be changes once the final grants are received. The motion came from the Executive Committee and was carried. Sonia Carruthers and Trey Ragsdale abstained.
- **Approve the NextGen Youth Eligibility Policy.** Brett Lacy, ARC, indicated the NextGen Committee reviewed and adopted the policy, including provisions and requirements for determining youth program eligibility and providing program documentation. The motion came from the Executive Committee and was carried.
- **Approve the Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) Agreements.** Brett Lacy, ARC, discussed the IWT RFP selection process and recommendations. The motion came from the Executive Committee and was carried.

5. Information Items

- Bret 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 has made significant progress, including collaborating with TCSG and GDOT to finalize the curriculum and identifying employers with job opportunities anticipated in Q1. The first cohort started at Gwinnett Tech on May 7th, and the Atlanta Tech cohort is slated to start on June 4th.
- Marsharee O’Conner, ARC, provided an update on the Pathways to the Digital Economy (PADE) project. Specifically, lunch and learns will be scheduled with employers to discuss Wex Opportunities over the summer.

6. ARWDB Reports

One Stop Manager’s Report

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

Executive Committee

Trey Ragsdale gave the report. He 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

Phyllis Jackson, ARC, reported that the group met on April 30th to discuss the new Mobile Career Center. They are also looking for a co-chair.

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 in all metrics except one for PY25
- Brett provided an update on his Priority Activities for 2025

Next full board meeting will be on August 12, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57.