ARWDB MEETING

October 28, 2026 - Meeting Summary

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

ARWDB Board Member Kristy Smith called the Committee meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

1. Welcome

Kristy Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Quorum was met.

2. Public Comment

There was none.

3. Presentation:

Georgia Commute Options: Johann Weber, ARC Mobility Services, presented an overview of Georgia Commute Options, administered by ARC and funded by GDOT, as a no-cost resource for employers and commuters, and invited the workforce board and partner organizations to collaborate on vanpools, carpools, commute analysis, and workforce-access initiatives.

4. Action Items:

- **Approve the Summary from the August 12, 2026, Meeting:** Leon Allen made a motion; Tonya Byrd seconded; the summary was accepted unanimously.

- **Approve Local Plan PY24 – PY27 Modifications:** Leonardo McClarty made a motion; Tonya Byrd seconded; final approval was accepted unanimously.

- **Approve Living Wage Updates:** Leonardo McClarty made a motion: Tonya Byrd seconded; final approval was accepted unanimously.

- **Approve NextGen Work Experience Policy Update:** Leonardo McClarty made a motion: Autumn Andrews seconded; final approval was accepted unanimously.

5. Informational Items:

Federal and State Legislative Updates:
Brett Lacy, ARC, reported limited federal legislative movement, new workforce Pell approvals for short-term programs, continued implementation of Georgia Match, and the planned Georgia Connect platform for education, financial-aid, credential, and career-pathway information.

Special Project Updates:

Building Pathways:
Lisa Davis, ARC, provided an update on the Building Pathways program. The project is over halfway through its grant period, having served 202 participants, with 159 completing training and 104 entering employment, and is projected to be ahead of schedule, with a focus on closing remaining employment gaps. The program is still on target with the grant goals. All deadlines for quarterly reports were met.

Building Georgia
Lisa Davis, ARC, provided an update on Building Georgia. She provided an update on the progress of the first two cohorts. The second Advisory Council meeting was held on October 13, 2026. The third cohort started at Atlanta Tech last week. We are still waiting on a date from Gwinnett Tech.

Pathways to Digital Economy (PADE)
Candice Coppin, ARC, provided an update on the Pathways to the Digital Economy (PADE) project. She reported that the Google certificate and work-experience pilot has enrolled about 65 youth, engaged 26 employers, completed work experience for 29 participants, and is shifting its remaining months toward credential completion and employment transitions before the pilot ends in December.

State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula (SAEF) Grant
Henry Charlot, ARC, reported 38 active regional apprenticeship enrollments toward an expected first-year target of 50, with construction leading locally and statewide, while the team continues helping employers establish new programs and access state and federal apprenticeship resources.

6. ARWDB Reports & Discussions:

One Stop Manager's Report (Carol Edwards)
Carol Edwards, One Stop Manager at Gwinnett Center, reported on customer numbers, partner additions, job fair outcomes, various in person and virtual hiring events, a financial literacy lunch

and learn, and upcoming hiring events. She also highlighted ongoing efforts to improve customer experience and employment outcomes.

Executive Committee
Committee did not meet.

Next Gen Committee
Candice Coppin, ARC, reported the committee met in late August. They welcomed the new members to the committee, approved the minutes from the previous meeting, discussed performance and discussed updates to the WEx policy.

Nominations Committee
Committee did not meet

Business Service Advisory Group
Henry Charlot, ARC, reported on the living wage updates, SAEF grant progress, and he provided information on various events/roundtables staff participated in over the past couple of months

Career Services Advisory Group
Phyllis Jackson, ARC, reported on coordination with DFCS, deployment of the mobile career lab, and an upcoming kiosk pilot to increase awareness and access to workforce services across different locations.

Directors Report
Brett Lacy, ARC, reported clean subrecipient financial monitoring, corrective actions for minor technical findings, a new state high-demand-career list, and a regional dashboard linking participant counties, training industries, credentials, and employment outcomes. He also provided an update on his Priority Activities for 2026

Next full board meeting will be on December 2, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55.