

ATLANTA REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD NEXTGEN COMMITTEE

August 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Members Present

Mayor Anthony Ford
Ms. Autumn Andrews
Mr. Chris Moder
Ms. Ciara Dunn
Mr. Jamal Jessie –Chair
Ms. Jennifer Houston

Ms. Kristy Smith- Co-Chair
Mr. Robert Hughes
Ms. Stephanie Rooks
Ms. Tangela Jones
Mr. Tim Hemans

Members Absent

Mr. Fred Dawkins
Ms. Mandy Chapman
Ms. Emma Reynolds-Middleton

Ms. Norma Marquez
Ms. Leslie Nelson

Guests

Ms. Debbie Anglin – HEARTS
Ms. Kathi Korcyk-Schaefer – Cherokee FOCUS
Ms. Sonia Carruthers – Cherokee FOCUS

Mr. Scott Levitt – TCSG OWD
Dr. Yolanda Usry – Gwinnett Tech

ARC Staff

Ms. Candice Coppin – NextGen Program
Ms. Haydn Brathwaite - Finance Manager

Ms. Marsharee O'Connor - NextGen Program
Mr. Rob LeBeau – ARWDB Director

The meeting was held at the Atlanta Regional Commission.

Mr. Jamal Jessie called the meeting to order at 12:14 p.m.

WELCOME AND INSTRUCTIONS:

- A. The NextGen Committee (NGC) continues to operate paperless, except for meetings held outside of ARC office. For copies of the information discussed during the meeting, visit the ARC website <https://atlantaregional.org/workforce-economy/boards-andcommittees/youth-committee/>, under Meeting Archives or send a request to ARC Staff Ms. Marsharee O'Connor via email at MO'Connor@atlantaregional.org.
- B. Mr. Jamal Jessie solicited any public comments.
- C. Two actions taken at this meeting.
- D. Mr. Jamal Jessie announced that Brett Lacey would replace Rob LeBeau as the ARWDB Director. The NextGen Committee later recognized Rob LeBeau for his service with a framed certificate and gift.

NEXTGEN COMMITTEE ACTION REQUIRED:

- 1. Ms. Jamal Jessie made the following motion:

MOTION: To approve the meeting minutes from May 8, 2025.

The motion was seconded by Mayor Anthony Ford and unanimously approved.

- 2. Mr. Jamal Jessie made the following motion:

MOTION: To approve the NGC Members Two-Year Membership Term.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Kristy Smith and unanimously approved.

NEXTGEN PROGRAM PERFORMANCE, PLANNING, AND SERVICES:

- A. **NextGen Program Funding and Performance Update** – Ms. Marsharee O'Connor reported that all PY24 funding grants have been closed out, with work experience spending requirements exceeded. PY25 funds were received in late July, consistent with past years. Estimated carryover funding from PY24 to PY25 will be announced in the next meeting. Additionally, Special Project funds have been put aside for the Construction Ready course through Individual Training Accounts (ITA).

Mr. Jamal Jessie announced that he resigned from Georgia Power and took a role with Google in a similar compacity with workforce development. He will continue serving on the ARWDB and NextGen Committee.

- B. **NextGen Program Performance** – Ms. O'Connor reviewed the PY24 Participant Tracking Report for the 4th and cumulative quarter. Ms. Candice Coppin presented the PY24 4th quarter and cumulative Performance Snapshots. Ms. O'Connor concluded with the PY24 State Performance results, meeting all metric goals.
- C. **NextGen Program Status Updates & Activities** – Mr. Rob LeBeau was presented with his framed certificate and gift from the NextGen Committee and gave a short speech.

NEXTGEN COMMITTEE PLANNING ACTIVITIES:

- A. **Strategic Plan** – Mr. Jamal Jessie presented the strategic plan and asked each Taskforce to review their section, discuss feasibility, recommend changes, and raise questions.
- B. **Taskforce** – Each Taskforce discussed the Strategic Plan and reported back on the next steps to complete their action items. Mr. Jessie requested committee members email their Taskforce notes to Ms. O’Connor.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS:

- A. **PY2025 NextGen Committee (NGC) Meeting Schedule & Location**
 - a. November 12, 2025 – Atlanta Regional Commission
 - B. **NextGen Committee Planning Activities** – Ms. Marsharee O’Connor took some time to outline the allocation of funds as it relates to County Fair Share trends over recent years.
 - C. **Next Board Meeting Date** – The Atlanta Regional Workforce Development Board (ARWDB) will meet in person at the Metro Atlanta Chamber offices August 13, 2025.
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The next committee meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.