

ARWDB MEETING

March 27, 2024 Meeting Summary

Members Present

Mr. Trey Ragsdale
Mr. Jamal Jessie
Mr. Robert Duffield
Mr. Jonathan Turner
Mr. James Jackson III
Mr. Aundra Walthall
Ms. Deirdra Cox
Ms. Sonia Carruthers
Mr. Fred Dawkins
Mr. Anthony Ford
Mr. Tim Hemans
Ms. Sara Ray
Ms. Kristy Smith
Ms. Autumn Andrews

Members Absent

Mr. Randy Hayes
Mr. Kent Mason
Ms. Tangela Jones
Ms. Mandy Chapman
Mr. Mike Alexander
Ms. Bridgette McDonald
Ms. Tamika Wright
Ms. Stephanie Rooks
Ms. Margie Ensley
Mr. Joel Domineck, Jr.
Mr. Oz Nesbitt

ARWDB Board Co-Chair, Sara Ray, called the Committee meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

1. Welcome

Rob LeBeau, ARC, welcomed everyone especially the new Committee members whom he mentioned by name: Co-Chair Sara Ray; Fred Dawkins; Anthony Ford; Tim Hemans; Kristy Smith; and Autumn Andrews.

Quorum was met.

2. Public Comment

Ken Wainwright, Rideshare Union, spoke and asked the ARWDB for support of HB1398.

3. Board/WIOA Orientation

Rob briefed the board on the history of the ARWDB, WIOA, funding cycles, programs, etc.

4. Action Items

- Consent Agenda
 - Meeting summary from December 6, 2023 meeting – Jamal Jessie made a motion; Robert Duffield seconded; summary was accepted unanimously.
- Approve an update to the Incumbent Worker Training Policy – Trey Ragsdale made a motion; Robert Duffield seconded; the update was approved unanimously.

- Approve Contract Extensions for the One Stop Operator, Career Service Providers and Youth Service Providers – Executive Committee recommended to extend for one year; James Jackson made the motion; Jamal seconded the motion; Trey and Sonia Carruthers abstained; the extension was approved unanimously.
- Approve the One Stop Certification Criteria –Executive Committee recommended approval of the criteria as is; Robert made the motion; James seconded the motion; passed unanimously.
- The MIT Living Wage Rate for the Demand Occupations List was discussed – the wage rate was raised last year to \$18.50; this year the average rate for the region has gone up to \$25.91; at that rate the Demand Occupations List will lose one quarter of the jobs on the list. Staff will look at the average rate for the five targeted industry's and bring a recommendation to the May meeting.
- Discussion of SB 26 – Georgia Opens Meetings Act – with the passage of this Bill during the State's last session, ARWDB members can now attend meetings virtually and have it count towards quorum. In order to better understand how the Board can fully utilize this, Jamal will form an Ad Hoc Committee to review the bylaws and the act and make some recommendations.

5. ARWDB Reports

One Stop Manager's Report

- Rob gave the report.
- One Stop Center usage for February was 370 while phone calls were 284.

Executive Committee

- Jamal Jessie gave the report. He also asked for volunteers to assist with the Ad Hoc Committee; Anthony Ford volunteered.

Next Gen Committee

- Committee met but did not have quorum. They will meet again on May 1.

Business Service Task Force

- Currently have IWT and OJT projects in each county; holding a Career Fair on March 28

Career Services Task Force

- Did not meet, however, it was noted that the welding trailer is fully booked through the end of the year.

Directors Report

- Unemployment rate for Georgia is 3.1% while the national average is 3.7%
- The downward funding trend for WIOA continues to be the case.

- The local and regional plans will get revised this year with the pro bono assistance of Accenture.

6. Next full board meeting will be May 22, 2023 at ARC.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 p.m.