



WORKSOURCE COBB BOARD AGENDA

July 23, 2025

Agenda Items

9:00	Welcome, Review, and Approve Agenda	Daneeza Badio-McCray
9:05	Success Story	
9:10	Approval Items 05.28.25 Minutes (A1) Janitorial Service Contract (A2) PY 25/26 Organizational Budget (A3)	Daneeza Badio-McCray
9:20	CEO Updates <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Update on Federal Funds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Update on organizational right-sizing and program pauses	Sonya Grant
9:30	Literacy Update Graduation PowerUp! and Literacy Graduates	Bill Tanks Olivia Wilson
9:45	Development Committee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AYS Fundraising Event Planning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walk through FaceBook Fundraising on social media	Olivia Wilson
10:00	Finance Report Audit Update SOA (A4)	Ralph Rehn Thomas Base
10:15	Planning and Organizational Governance	Dr. Kimberly Roberts Sonya Grant
10:20	BOSS Young Professionals update	Patricia Horton LaDonna Huggins
10:25	Workforce Partnership update	Dana Johnson



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday May 28, 2025
9:00 am – 10:30am



Members Present	Staff Present	Members Absent	Guests
Daneeza Badio-Mcrae Cynthia Burks Daniel Cummings Dana Johnson Karen Hill Patricia Horton Matt Hoyman Marty Hughes Kim Kranzlein Dr. Traron Moore Peta Parkinson Ralph Rehn Dr. Kimberly Roberts Iris Simmons Dennette Thornton Joe Waldroup David Young	Sonya Grant Michelle Baker-Williams Thomas Base Aida Jones Kem Washington Olivia Wilson	Lisa Cupid (CLEO) Sandra Williams William Tanks	

Welcome & Introductions

The hybrid meeting was called to order at 9:00 am with a welcome by **Sonya Grant**.

ACTION ITEM: **Sonya Grant** updated the committee on the fiscal analysis meant to assess budget spending and determine feasibility for policy changes. She noted that this study had not yet been completed and would be conducted with the Finance Committee. This action item, tied to adjustments in the OJT and customized training policy, remains open for discussion at the next board meeting.

ACTION ITEM: A market analysis had also not yet been conducted. **Sonya Grant** confirmed that both studies would be addressed at the next board meeting.

ACTION ITEM: The third outstanding item involved securing data reports from the Atlanta Regional Commission and Georgia Power, related to OJT and customized training policies. **Sonya Grant** emphasized that while this was not urgent, it was necessary to ensure alignment with workforce agencies and base decisions on data. She stated

the intent to gather data before the next meeting to inform local policy adjustments.

Daneeza Badio-McCray thanked **Sonya Grant** for the update.

Sonya Grant reported that one item had been completed—letters developed by the workforce boards had been sent to local elected officials, requesting support for WIOA funding. She stressed the importance of ongoing advocacy at the federal and state levels to ensure continued support.

AYS (“Are You Smarter Than a 10-Year-Old”) Event Update

Olivia Wilson confirmed that information about AYS had been sent to the board and previous sponsors. She elaborated that the event, **"Are You Smarter Than a 10-Year-Old," will be held Thursday, September 18th**, at the new facility, providing greater flexibility for hosting.

Questions on Action Items and WIOA Advocacy

Peta Parkinson asked if there had been any response from elected officials after the letters were sent. **Sonya Grant** responded that she and **Olivia Wilson** had met with Congresswoman Lucy McBath, who expressed support for WIOA funding. **Sonya Grant** emphasized that WIOA is a non-partisan issue, centered on employer support and job seeker training—especially for small businesses. She also mentioned attending a town hall with Senator Jon Ossoff, where WIOA was discussed, and noted that awareness of WIOA funding is increasing.

Motion to Approve Minutes

Daneeza Badio-McCray asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes and then moved to entertain a motion for approval. **Marty Hughes** moved to approve the minutes, seconded by **Kimberly Roberts**. With no opposition, **Daneeza Badio-McCray** confirmed the motion carried.

CEO Updates: Mableton Center and Q3 Performance

Sonya Grant confirmed that the Mableton Center is "up and running" with a big rollout planned for the co-working space. The co-working space offices are currently rented to the city of Mableton. She stated that she is currently in discussion with City Manager Bill Tanks to extend the lease, which would help offset other expiring funding.

Sonya Grant corrected an agenda typo, clarifying they were reviewing Q3, not Q4 performance, and turned it over to **Aida** for a performance update. **LaDonna Huggins** explained that the Q3 employment rate for dislocated adults was 65.7% against a 79% target, achieving 83.1% of the goal. She noted they are in the “yellow” status—meeting but not exceeding. She emphasized the importance of employment rates, expressing confidence they would exceed 90% by the next quarter.

Aida resumed the report, noting that performance appears lower due to participants in their re-entry program—some of whom are still incarcerated. She said they've refined the enrollment process to include individuals closer to release. **Sonya Grant** added that performance data lags behind current efforts and may not reflect today's success. Still, **Aida** confirmed they met 83% of the state goal and are on track.

Aida highlighted further performance outcomes:

- Median earnings exceeded the state goal by 95.5%.

- Credential attainment surpassed expectations at 103.8%.
- Measurable skills gains are improving, with staff now tracking test scores more efficiently.
- All metrics for dislocated workers have been exceeded.

She reviewed other Atlanta-region agencies:

- Atlanta Regional Commission: exceeding all goals.
- Fulton County: exceeding most goals.
- Atlanta: met or exceeded metrics.
- Dekalb is facing challenges due to leadership transition but showing potential with a new CEO on the horizon.

Closing Remarks on Performance

Daneeea Badio-McCray praised staff efforts, calling their work "incredible" and reminding everyone to document everything. **Sonya Grant** acknowledged that the re-entry program may affect performance but insisted that the vulnerable populations it serves are worth it. She stated, "We can stomach a little bit of 'meets expectations' to serve those who need us most."

Daneeea Badio-McCray agreed, suggesting systemic changes—perhaps a two-year reporting window for complex populations. **Sonya Grant** supported the idea, highlighting that they are likely the only agency in the state running an on-site re-entry program, which other agencies avoid due to the challenge and risk to performance metrics.

Literacy Update

Olivia Wilson provided the literacy update. She indicated that system changes have increased monthly GED enrollments from 1–3 to 6–8. Olivia announced that graduation will be held Friday, June 20th, at the Cobb WorkSource Center. Dr. Epps, Dean of Education at Kennesaw State University, will be the keynote speaker. Board members were invited to attend and offer remarks. The graduating class includes GED, high school diploma, Cobb Fire Prep, and PowerUp Pre-apprenticeship students. Approximately 18-25 graduates should be in attendance with a total of 30 graduating.

Additional highlights:

- All key literacy indicators (enrollments, test completion, graduation) are trending upward.
- Monthly work readiness workshops are being held across all three sites.
- A financial literacy workshop was hosted last month with Truist Bank
- The mobile unit is back in use with monthly scheduling at the Department of Community Supervision.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting – Wednesday, July 23, 2025