

**MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD
Docket No. 5690**

Open Session

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 1:00 p.m., June 21, 2023, with Chair Michael Allen presiding.

1. Roll Call: <u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Michael Allen, Chair	X	
Laura Kent-Monning, Vice-Chair	X	
Mike Eng	X	
Bob Wieckowski	X	

2. Approval of the Minutes:

The May 17, 2023, Meeting Minutes were approved.

3. Chair's Report:

Chair Allen reported that since the last meeting, the Board resolved 1,592 second-level appeals, 524 of which were issued within CAMS. Field Office Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) resolved thousands of first-level appeals.

Chair Allen announced the designation of Laura Kent-Monning as CUIAB Vice-Chair.

4. Board Member Reports:

Member Eng congratulated Chair Allen on his appointment to Board Chair and Vice-Chair Kent-Monning on accepting the Vice-Chair position. Member Eng also commended CUIAB's staff for resolving approximately 38,000 cases in May.

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning reported she will observe CAMS training in the Los Angeles Office of Appeals next week and applauded CUIAB for the volume of cases resolved in May.

Member Wieckowski congratulated Chair Allen and Vice-Chair Kent-Monning on their appointments and expressed his gratitude for his colleagues' work.

5. Public Comment

Richard Miller commented on the CUIAB members' roles and responsibilities.

6. Chief ALJ/Executive Director Report:

Chief Cutri thanked Chair Allen and Vice-Chair Kent-Monning for their support and looks forward to continuing to work together.

In May, the field offices resolved over 38,000 appeals, the largest output since June 2013. The volume of monthly appeals received decreased from approximately 77% above pre-pandemic levels in December, to approximately 31% higher. CUIAB's open inventory of cases dropped by nearly 11,000 cases and the average case age decreased to 138 days. CUIAB anticipates it will be able to further shorten this and its performance remains significantly ahead of the national average.

CUIAB continues to hire ALJs. The 17th ALJ training cohort has begun, and the 18th ALJ training cohort will begin in July.

The CAMS team has been preparing to implement CAMS in the Los Angeles Office of Appeals with the Inglewood Office of Appeals following next.

Since the May Board meeting, Chief Cutri met with the U.S. Department of Labor, Region 6, to discuss progress and strategies to reduce the appeals backlog and also met with National Department of Labor representatives to share best practices and strategies. Chief Cutri will discuss this further when he attends the National Association of Unemployment Insurance Appeals Professionals conference in Denver, Colorado next week.

Since the May Board meeting, CUIAB experienced a security incident at the Sacramento Office of Appeals involving a former employee making an unwelcome communication directed to current staff. The appropriate authorities were contacted, and the incident was resolved.

Member Eng, Vice-Chair Kent-Monning and Member Wieckowski congratulated Chief Cutri on resolving a high volume of first-level appeals in May.

Chair Allen discussed his experience serving on the Board during the height of the

pandemic and previously the great recession, commending the organization for its work during those challenges and its progress resolving cases.

7. Supervising ALJ of Appellate Operations, Rebecca Bach Report:

Supervising Administrative Law Judge Bach reported that during May, AO resolved 43.8% of its cases within 45 days and 84.7% within 75 days. The average case age was 33.8 days.

Member Eng thanked Supervising Judge Bach for her assistance with cases.

Member Kent-Monning commended Judge Bach and the AO staff for their work.

Chair Allen praised Supervising Judge Bach for her knowledge and generosity.

8. Chief of Administrative Services, Robert Silva Report:

Chief Silva commended Chair Allen and Vice-Chair Kent-Monning and looks forward to continuing to work with them.

In June, CUIAB hired two ALJs in the Fresno Office of Appeals, and one ALJ in the Oxnard Office of Appeals. Two ALJ hires in the San Jose Office of Appeals and one in the Bay Area Office of Appeals are scheduled to take part in CUIAB's 18th training cohort in July, along with ALJs in Orange County and Sacramento if hiring is completed by then. There are currently 34 support staff hires pending in the field offices and two pending for Appellate Operations.

Since the last meeting, there was one reported COVID case with no office closures.

May is one of the biannual bilingual survey months. Forty-four CUIAB employees participated in this, and all met the 10% use threshold to continue receiving the bilingual pay differential.

Member Eng inquired about the process for the bilingual survey. Chief Silva described the time accounting that occurs twice per year. Member Eng inquired about the May revise update and potential impacts on CUIAB. Chief Silva advised that there will be no reductions in staffing or employee compensation.

Member Wieckowski inquired about the manner in which CUIAB projects staffing needs in light of workload fluctuations. Chief Silva advised that CUIAB's staffing

levels are based on factors including EDD's claim filing projections and that CUIAB hires limited-term positions in order to avoid potential future layoffs when workload declines.

Chair Allen commended Chief Silva on his long-time employment with CUIAB serving California.

9. Chief Information Officer, Jefferson Willoughby Report:

CIO Willoughby reported that CAMS training has commenced in the Los Angeles Office of Appeals. The Inglewood Office of Appeals will begin training in July. CUIAB's measures remediating technical issues continue to hold and CUIAB has begun meeting with its CAMS stabilization project vendor to plan for system improvements. CUIAB remains on schedule to implement CAMS in all field offices by the end of the year.

Member Eng expressed appreciation for the work on CAMS and anticipated statewide implementation by the end of the year.

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning thanked CIO Willoughby, the IT staff and the new vendor for their work.

Closed Session:

There was no Closed Session.

Adjournment