

**MINUTES  
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD  
Docket No. 5698**

**Open Session**

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 11:00 a.m., February 21, 2024, with Chair Michael Allen presiding.

The Board approved Chair Allen's request to appear remotely pursuant to Government Code section 11123.2(j)(3).

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

**2. Approval of the Minutes:**

The January 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes were approved.

**3. Chair's Report:**

Since the last meeting, the Board resolved approximately 1,503 second-level appeals, 1,039 of which were issued within CAMS. Chair Allen reported that he visited the San Diego Office of Appeals to meet with staff and observe operations. Chair Allen was impressed with its performance and thanked the office for accommodating him.

**4. Board Member Reports:**

Vice-Chair Kent Monning expressed her gratitude for the work of CUIAB's staff.

Member Eng also thanked CUIAB's staff for their work.

## **5. Public Comment**

Dennis Green Jr. commented on issues of homelessness and challenges facing workers.

## **6. Chief ALJ/Executive Director, Michael Cutri Report:**

In January, the field offices issued approximately 30,631 decisions, and the open case inventory slightly increased by approximately 1,241 cases. The average case age decreased to 109.2 days, and CUIAB's performance remains significantly ahead of the national average of 200 days.

Chief Cutri reported that the Spanish language user interface for CAMS is live. Additional languages of Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, and Tagalog are planned.

Chief Cutri reported that IT continues to work on CAMS enhancements. The Office of Tax Petitions will begin CAMS transitioning in the spring, involving the development and implementation of new administrative processes within the system.

There were no security incidents since the last Board meeting.

Member Wieckowski inquired about the impacts of fluctuations in the first-level appeal case inventory on the second-level appeals workload. Chief Cutri advised that as the population of first-level appeals declines, the number of second-level appeals should similarly decline.

Member Eng commended IT for its work on expanding language accessibility in CAMS. Member Eng inquired about translations of documents utilized by the EDD. Chief Cutri advised that as a party, EDD's documents are transmitted to CUIAB and maintained in the case file. Member Eng asked about recent legislation regarding requiring EDD to expand its language access. Chief Cutri summarized the requirements of the legislation. Member Eng inquired about the late filing of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance cases and the possible end to the pandemic unemployment cases. Chief Cutri advised that CUIAB continues to receive appeals involving PUA. The U.S. Department of Labor will eventually set an end date for processing of pandemic unemployment cases but has not yet.

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning thanked Chief Cutri for the work improving language access and the IT team for their ongoing work improving CAMS.

Chair Allen commended the organization on its progress in improving language access and thanked the entire organization for their hard work.

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

Supervising Administrative Law Judge Bach reported that during January, 24% of the second-level appeals were resolved within 45 days and 34.3% within 75 days. The average case age was 64.8 days. All but two administrative law judges are fully working within CAMS.

**8. Chief of Administrative Services, Robert Silva Report:**

Since the January Board meeting, there has been one support staff hire with twenty-four recruitments pending.

Chief Silva advised that CalCard will be temporarily shut off starting on May 10, 2024, in preparation for the fiscal year-end processing and accounting.

On January 18, Administrative Services released the Personnel and Operating Expenses Budget Call Letters for State Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The budget requests from each program with CUIAB will be consolidated and reviewed by the Executive Director.

Member Eng inquired about the revised California Department of Public Health COVID guidelines and office closures. Chief Silva advised that CUIAB has not had a COVID office closure in several months and summarized the updated COVID-19 guidelines. Member Eng asked if there have been updates regarding potential furloughs or hiring freezes due to budget concerns. Chief Silva advised there has been no new information on this since the last Board meeting.

Chair Allen asked about the portion of the budget that is funded by the federal government. Chief Silva advised that federal funds account for approximately 91% of CUIAB's budget.

**Closed Session:**

There was no Closed Session.

**Adjournment**