

**MINUTES  
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD  
Docket No. 5699**

**Open Session**

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 11:00 a.m., March 20, 2024, with Chair Michael Allen presiding.

<b>1. Roll Call: <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 February 21, 2024, Meeting Minutes were approved.

**3. Chair's Report:**

Since the last meeting, the Board resolved approximately 1,085 second-level appeals, 991 of which were issued within CAMS. Chair Allen expressed his appreciation to all levels of the CUIAB organization.

**4. Board Member Reports:**

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning reported on the improvements to the CAMS Spanish language user interface and progress on Vietnamese translation. Vice-Chair Kent-Monning thanked those who worked on this and Supervising Judge Bach for her work providing CAMS training to the Board.

Member Eng expressed his appreciation for the continued work in CAMS and looks forward to additional CAMS training.

Member Wieckowski commended Appellate Operations for its work and expressed his appreciation for the CAMS system.

## **5. Public Comment**

No public comment.

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

In February, the field offices issued 29,474 decisions, and the open case inventory slightly increased by 920 cases. The average case age decreased to 104.5 days, and CUIAB's performance remains significantly ahead of the national average of 263 days.

Chief Cutri met with the U.S. Department of Labor and reported that they were encouraged by CUIAB's progress in reducing both the case backlog and the average case age. Chief Cutri reported that every three years the DOL hosts the National Appeals Review Conference in Washington, D.C., and after multiple postponements since 2020, the conference will resume this year. Assistant Chief Hugh Harrison will attend the conference on behalf of CUIAB.

Chief Cutri congratulated Administrative Law Judge Elizabeth Manassau of the San Jose Office of Appeals on her appointment to the Santa Clara County Superior Court. Manassau is the fourth Administrative Law Judge to be appointed to the Superior Court in the last three years.

There were no security incidents since the last Board meeting.

Chair Allen inquired about the most recent updates to DOL's Quality Review standards. Chief Cutri stated the last revisions were made in approximately 2012 or 2013.

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning thanked Assistant Chief Harrison for attending the conference.

Member Eng commended Chief Cutri for his work and travel despite weather challenges. Member Eng inquired about a projected timeframe when cases will no longer be processed within CUIAB's legacy system. Chief Cutri advised that CUIAB does not currently have a projection for this. Member Eng also inquired about anticipated increases in the unemployment appeals caseload. Chief Cutri advised that California's unemployment rates have been increasing slightly, but appeal levels are close to pre-pandemic levels.

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

Supervising Administrative Law Judge Bach briefly spoke about the process for notifying Board members when a legacy case is assigned to them.

Supervising Administrative Law Judge Bach reported that during February, 8.1% of the second-level appeals were resolved within 45 days and 15.4% within 75 days. The average case age was 54.4 days. All administrative law judges are fully working within CAMS.

Chair Allen thanked Supervising Judge Bach for her work.

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning thanked Supervising Judge Bach for her work on CAMS training and commended the AO ALJs for working within CAMS.

Members Eng and Wieckowski thanked Supervising Judge Bach for providing CAMS training and for her ongoing assistance to the Board.

## **8. Chief Information Officer, Jefferson Willoughby Report**

CIO Willoughby reported that CUIAB continues to engage with the Department of Technology regarding various CAMS functions and integrating CUIAB's Office of Tax Appeals into CAMS. Work is continuing to enhance CAMS usability and it is anticipated that CAMS will provide Vietnamese language accessibility next.

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning thanked IT for its work.

Member Eng inquired about the work arrangements between CUIAB and the Department of Technology regarding CAMS enhancements. CIO Willoughby advised that with the funding and oversight of the Department of Technology, CUIAB utilizes a vendor to program specified enhancements and utilizes internal staff for other aspects of CAMS enhancements.

Member Wieckowski looks forward to utilizing the CAMS enhancements.

## **9. Chief of Administrative Services, Robert Silva Report:**

Since the February Board meeting, there has been one support staff hire with twenty recruitments pending. During the Fiscal Year 2023-2024, eighteen support staff

have been hired; however, there has been an attrition of twenty-five.

Chief Silva reported that, effective January 1, 2024, the Memorandum of Understanding with SEIU changed the way maximum hours for work by seasonal clerks are calculated. CUIAB employs ten seasonal clerks and has implemented the changes.

Chair Allen commended the perseverance of the CUIAB staff.

Member Eng inquired about the impacts on CUIAB's budget resulting from the projected budget shortfall. Chief Silva advised that the current projected shortfall is not anticipated to impact CUIAB's funding for its workload.

**Closed Session:**

There was no Closed Session.

**Adjournment**