

**MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD
Docket No. 5678**

Open Session

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 1:00 p.m., June 7, 2022, via Zoom conferencing with Chair Marty Block presiding.

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

2. Approval of the Minutes:

The April 27, 2022, Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously. The May 18, 2022, Meeting Minutes as amended were approved unanimously.

3. Chair's Report:

Chair Block advised that most of the Board's work is not done during the meetings, but in-between meetings. Since the last board meeting, the Board resolved 672 second-level appeals, and Field Office Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) resolved thousands of first-level appeals.

Chair Block reported that he and Executive Director Cutri met with Labor Workforce Development Agency's Secretary, Natalie Palugyai, and discussed CUIAB's performance under the Department of Labor timelapse standards.

4. Board Member Reports:

Member Eng thanked PALJ Wayland for accommodating him in the Pasadena Office of Appeals.

Member Allen thanked the CUIAB staff for their work.

Member Kent-Monning thanked Acting PALJ Hannah of the Bay Area Office of Appeals for accommodating her and the CUIAB staff for their work.

5. Public Comment

No public comment.

6. Chief ALJ/Executive Director Report:

In May, the field offices resolved over 26,000 appeals. CUIAB continues to meet with EDD monthly to evaluate workload trends.

CUIAB closed 1.7% of cases within 30 days and 2.8% of cases within 45 days. The average case age is 93 days. Appeal timeliness is a nationwide problem and nationwide the average case age is 170 days.

Since the last Board meeting there were five office closures due to COVID. The offices were cleaned and re-opened with few hearings impacted.

Executive Director Cutri thanked Chief Silva and his team for their continuous work administering the State's COVID protocols. Director Cutri also thanked the field office staff and ALJs for their diligence promoting a safe work environment.

CUIAB continues to recruit ALJs and support staff. The 11th cohort of new ALJs has commenced work conducting hearings. The 12th cohort of new ALJs will begin training with PJ Bach shortly.

Executive Director Cutri and CIO Willoughby visited the Fresno Office of Appeals and observed the lifecycle of a case through CUIAB's California Appeals Modernization System (CAMS).

Vice-Chair Reeves thanked Executive Director Cutri for his updates on COVID cases within CUIAB and the field office staff for their work.

Member Eng thanked Executive Director Cutri for his updates and inquired about office staff vacancies. Director Cutri deferred to Chief Silva to report on this.

Member Allen applauded the Fresno Office of Appeals for piloting the implementation of the CAMS project.

Member Kent-Monning thanked Director Cutri for his availability to the Board between meetings and congratulated the Fresno Office of Appeals for its work implementing CAMS.

7. Presiding ALJ of Appellate Operations, Jodi Remke Report:

Presiding Administrative Law Judge for Appellate Operations, Jodi Remke, reported that during May, AO resolved 3.7% of its cases within 45 days and 97% within 75 days. AO is analyzing staffing options to improve timelapse performance.

Vice-Chair Reeves and Chair Block inquired about time limitations applicable to retired annuitant ALJs (RA's) currently working in AO. Director Cutri and Chief Silva advised that an Executive Order had previously suspended the annual 960-hour limitation RAs are permitted to work as well as the 180-day period that RAs are required to wait following retirement before commencing work as an RA. These limitations were reinstated in March 2022.

Member Eng thanked PJ Remke for her assistance on cases.

Members Allen and Kent-Monning thanked PJ Remke and the AO ALJ's for their work and support on cases.

8. Chief Information Officer, Jeff Willoughby Report:

Chief Willoughby reported that the Fresno Office of Appeals continues to hear cases through CAMS and is identifying issues that need to be addressed, as well as refining processes.

Chair Block expressed his appreciation for the work on CAMS and looks forward to training on the system and its further implementation.

Vice-Chair Reeves congratulated Chief Willoughby on the successful launch of CAMS.

Member Eng expressed his appreciation for the launch of CAMS and inquired about the timeline for its implementation in subsequent field offices. Chief Willoughby advised they are evaluating the experiences and issues identified during the Fresno pilot. After this is completed, CUIAB can determine the timing and selection of the next field offices to implement CAMS.

Member Allen thanked Chief Willoughby and his staff for their work.

Member Kent-Monning thanked Chief Willoughby and his staff for their efforts in working to ensure a successful launch of CAMS throughout the field offices.

9. Chief Administrative Services, Robert Silva Report:

Chief Silva reported that between May and June Board Meetings, there were 20 reported positive COVID cases, resulting in five brief office closures. Chief Silva thanked Valerie Graziano for managing and triaging COVID issues.

Corey Schuh recently visited the Los Angeles and Pasadena field offices to upgrade the security cameras and security camera servers. The Oxnard field office and four outstations remain due for upgrade.

Chief Silva reported that CUIAB has hired four new support staff since the last Board meeting and there are 16 hires pending.

Member Eng inquired about CUIAB's process for filling vacancies and asked whether an examination was a requirement hiring eligibility into support staff positions. Chief Silva described CUIAB's recruitment processes and the testing requirements applicable to entry-level support staff positions in the State.

Member Allen emphasized the importance of CUIAB's efforts to meet the staffing levels needed, and his appreciation for the report Chief Silva previously provided regarding CUIAB's recruitment and retention activities. Member Allen also thanked Chief Silva for his work on CUIAB's budget.

Member Kent-Monning thanked Chief Silva and his staff for their ongoing work implementing the COVID safety protocols.

Closed Session:

There was no Closed Session.

Adjournment