

**MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD
Docket No. 5639**

Open Session

The Appeals Board convened at 1:00 p.m., February 19, 2019 in Sacramento 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	
Ralph Lightstone	x	

2. Approval of the Minutes:

The January 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes were approved 3-0 with two abstentions, Member Mike Eng and Vice Chair Dan Reeves, who were not at the January Board meeting.

3. Chair's Report:

Chair Block welcomed the new Board Members. He noted Member Lightstone attended his first Board Meeting in January and that it was Member Allen's first Board Meeting as a newly appointed Governor's appointee, previously serving as a Speaker appointee. Chair Block welcomed Member Mike Eng, appointed by Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon. He noted Member Eng and he both served in the Assembly together. Lastly, he welcomed Vice Chair Dan Reeves, who previously served as Chief of Staff to Senate Leader Kevin De Leon.

Chair Block reminded the Board Members that meetings are livestreamed for members of the public and other interested parties. He explained livestreaming started two months ago to provide transparency and allow people the opportunity to see the work of the Board.

Chair Block noted that although the Board meets once a month and the meetings are relatively short, it is important to know that most of the Board's work is done

between meetings, in the review of cases on appeal. During the last month the Board has resolved 1,151 appellate cases, which was a lot considering the new Board Members were also training. Chair Block thanked PALJ Remke for providing the new Board Members training.

4. Board Member Reports:

Vice Chair Dan Reeves thanked Chair Block for integrating the three new Board Members effectively and expediently. He thanked PALJ Remke and ALJ Bach for their time in training the Board Members to review cases. Vice Chair Reeves also thanked Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins for his appointment. He stated it was an honor and a privilege to serve on the Board with the esteemed Members. He thanked Lisa Chin, who leads the Senate Appointments Unit for Senator Atkins. She reviews every applicant that goes through the process and he appreciated her hard work.

Member Eng commented it was an honor to join former distinguished colleagues Marty Block and Michael Allen. He echoed Vice Chair Reeves sentiments and thanked PALJ Remke and ALJ Bach for the excellent training, specifically guidance through the written regulations and precedent decisions. He also thanked the leadership and staff for the great welcome. He recognizes the importance of each case and the assurance of fairness and rapid results provided by the Board. He considers it an honor to be a part of each of his cases. In conclusion, he thanked Speaker Anthony Rendon for his appointment.

Member Allen expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Governor Newsom for his appointment. He welcomed his new colleagues to the Board. He acknowledged that everyone in the organization is incredibly helpful and wants to see you succeed in this role. Team work is essential for success. There is intent with the judges at the field level, at appellate level and with Board Members to get it right and provide justice to the parties. He is proud to be a Member of this Board and looks forward to working with all of his colleagues.

Member Lightstone commented that he too is very honored and grateful to be appointed to the Board and to have the opportunity to work with everyone. Over the past month he has had the opportunity to participate in reviewing cases and in the training. He appreciates everyone's hard work and competence striving to get a just result for the parties. It is very impressive from both the Field Operations and the Appellate Operations. Member Lightstone thanked PALJ Remke for her training of the Board.

5. Public Comment

No Public Comment.

6. Chief ALJ/Executive Director Report:

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Gonzales reported on the Workload and Department of Labor standards. March is the month the Department of Labor measures the work status to ensure compliance with federal timeliness standards. The percentage of cases closed under 30 days was at 64.6% and the standard is 60%. The percentage of cases closed under 45 days was 89.3% and the standard is 80%. The average age of the pending cases is 24 days and the standard is 30 days. Executive Director Gonzales stated she is comfortable they will comply with Department of Labor standards this year which will be the third consecutive year.

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Gonzales reported there are state mandated leadership programs required for state leaders, like continuing education. She reported CUIAB joined with CalHR to provide a LEAN Belt training series, specific to CUIAB. This Lean Belt training will fulfill the agencies requirement.

Executive Director Gonzales reported they will conduct two training seminars in April. This will be a good opportunity for leaders throughout the state and the staff here to meet and spend time together. She noted Lori Kurosaka and the training team have worked very hard to make sure everyone is available.

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Gonzales reported PALJ Felicita Ngo and PALJ Mike Cutri were the latest presiding judges to graduate from the Sacramento State Leadership Academy.

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Gonzales reported there will be a spring ALJ training day scheduled to coincide with a Board meeting day. This will allow the Board Members to meet some of the Field Office and Appellate Office ALJs. In addition, another ALJ training, De-escalation Training, will be scheduled for May or June.

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Gonzales stated there was one security incident in Sacramento with a claimant who left the hearing abruptly, but no report had to be made.

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

PALJ/AO Remke reported it was very busy month with Board Member training and

a large caseload. She stated AO did quite well in the transition and continues to comply and surpass the Department of Labor guidelines and standards. The percentage of cases closed in 45 days or less is at 94.1%, where the standard is 50%. She noted the only place the transition impacted AO was the case aging which is now at 23.2 days. This was to be expected as some cases sat a little longer due to the Board Members still training. Overall the Board Members did a great job of getting up to speed quickly and moving all of the cases. Board Member training will be finishing up in some areas and they continue to process cases as timely and effectively as possible.

Member Allen asked if the Board Members had the opportunity to listen to a Field Office hearing.

PALJ/AO Remke responded yes, it was part of the training.

Member Allen suggested possibly in the future Board Members could take a tour of EDD.

Board Members expressed interest and Chair Block thanked Member Allen for the suggestion.

8. Chief Information Officer, Jeff Willoughby Report:

CIO Willoughby reported IT has completed the PC hardware and PC upgrade for the Sacramento Field Office and Office of Tax Appeals. Appellate Operations is next for upgrade. He expects more upgrades in the field beginning in April and estimated completion time of approximately 16 weeks.

CIO Willoughby reported Sonia Teamer has been hired as the new IT ISO. Sonia Teamer spent over 20 years at CalPERS in various roles related to Information Security positions.

9. Chief Administrative Services, Robert Silva Report:

Chief Silva discussed the Monthly Overtime and Lump Sum Payout report set forth in the meeting packets.

Chief Silva reported that EDD Fiscal Programs Division is still working to integrate its fiscal system into the states FI\$Cal system. Thus, the budget update included only one quarter of the fiscal year. He reported the 2018/19 Fiscal Year Budget that the Board adopted in August included an allocation of \$62.3 million for salary,

wages and associated benefits. Through one-quarter of the fiscal year CUIAB has expended \$13.8 million which is 22% of that allocation. Chief Silva noted that while EDD is behind in providing expenditure data they have used a combination of internal tracking reports and other EDD reports to continue closely monitor spending. They have an upcoming meeting with EDD's Fiscal Programs Division to discuss when the information will be available.

Chief Silva reported Budget Call Letters were distributed to the CUIAB Cost Centers. Some will be due by the end of February and some in early March. Lastly, Chief Silva reported the Orange County Field Office remodel is complete.

Closed Session:

There were no Closed Session items. The Board adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Adjournment