

**MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD
Docket No. 5681**

Open Session

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 1:00 p.m., September 21, 2022, 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 August 17, 2022, Meeting Minutes 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 meeting, the Board resolved 1,202 second-level appeals, and Field Office Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) resolved thousands of first-level appeals.

October 17 – 20, 2022, Chair Block will attend the National Association of Unemployment Insurance Appeals Professionals (NAUIAP) Board of Governors meeting as President-Elect of the Board.

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

Chair Block expressed his gratitude to Presiding Administrative Law Judge Rebecca Bach for providing the CAMS training.

Chair Block requested to reschedule the Board Meeting currently scheduled for December 21, 2022, to December 15, 2022.

4. Board Member Reports:

Vice-Chair Reeves and Member Eng thanked and congratulated Chair Block on his leadership role with the NAUIAP.

Member Allen expressed his appreciation to the CUIAB staff working throughout the pandemic. Member Allen advised that he would have suggestions of matters Chair Block may wish to raise for discussion in the NAUIAP meeting.

Member Kent-Monning congratulated Chair Block on his role with NAUIAP and also advised she could provide suggestions for discussion items in the NAUIAP meeting. Member Kent-Monning thanked PJ Bach for providing CAMS training.

5. Public Comment

No public comment.

6. Chief ALJ/Executive Director Report:

Chief Cutri welcomed Presiding Administrative Law Judge Rebecca Bach and recognized her accomplishment in completing the training of the 12th cohort of new ALJs.

In August, CUIAB closed 2.7% of cases within 30 days and 3.4% of cases within 45 days. The average case age was 103 days. Appeal timeliness is a nationwide problem and nationwide the average case age is 177 days.

In August, the field offices resolved over 28,000 appeals. CUIAB continues to meet with EDD monthly to evaluate workload trends.

Chief Cutri reported that Bargaining Unit 2 reached agreement on a successor contract with the State.

In connection with the implementation of the Administrative Law Judge re-classification, CUIAB will begin interviews for additional ALJs. CUIAB anticipates hiring the new ALJs in the Fall and training to be conducted by San Diego Office of Appeals Presiding Administrative Law Judge, Catriona Morrison.

Since the last Board meeting, there were 10 positive COVID cases reported and two office closures. The offices were cleaned and re-opened with few hearings impacted.

The Oxnard and Fresno Field Offices are operating fully in the CAMS system. The Orange County Field Office will soon be operating fully in the CAMS system. Chief Cutri joined in the CAMS Board Member training and will also participate in CAMS training at the Orange County Office of Appeals. Chief Cutri thanked CIO Willoughby and the IT team for their work implementing CAMS.

Vice-Chair Reeves thanked and congratulated Chief Cutri and Chief Counsel Mark Woo-Sam, as well as Bargaining Unit 2 for their work in reaching agreement on a collective bargaining agreement.

Member Eng asked whether CUIAB tracks late-filed PUA cases following the denial of UI eligibility, and projections regarding the appeals caseload involving PUA claims. Chief Cutri advised that EDD confirmed it continues to automatically file PUA claims where warranted following adjudications denying UI eligibility. This process does not require action by the claimants to affirmatively apply for PUA benefits. PUA claims have currently diminished to 6% of CUIAB's appeals workload.

Member Allen congratulated all bargaining units and the management team on their achievement reaching bargaining agreements. Member Allen also thanked Chief Cutri for his availability and responsiveness to inquiries.

Member Kent-Monning requested information on the case processing efficiencies gained from CAMS implementation. Chief Cutri and PJ Bach advised that largely due to the elimination of paper files, cases can be processed in CAMS more quickly compared to cases processed in CUIAB's legacy systems.

Chair Block commended Chief Counsel Mark Woo-Sam and Assistant Chief Counsel Kim Hickox for their work on the collective bargaining agreements.

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

Presiding Judge Bach reported that during August, AO resolved 36.3% of cases within 45 days and 88.4% within 75 days. The average case is 39.4 days.

Appellate Operations has successfully utilized CAMS for cases from the Fresno and

Oxnard Field Offices. Four board members have been trained on the CAMS system.

Member Eng thanked PJ Bach for her assistance to the board panel in complex cases.

Member Allen thanked PJ Bach for her work conducting training.

Member Kent-Monning thanked PJ Bach for training and providing support to Board Members.

8. Chief Information Officer, Jeff Willoughby Report:

Chief Information Officer Willoughby reported that IT continues to make progress in the field office rollouts of CAMS. The Orange County field office will begin hearings in CAMS next week.

IT has been working to enhance and address issues that have arisen in implementing CAMS.

IT continues to meet with EDD to facilitate interaction between EDD's and CUIAB's information systems.

In October, IT will implement CAMS in the San Jose field office. CUIAB anticipates implementing CAMS in the San Diego and Inland field offices by the end of the year and completing the rollout in the remaining offices in 2023.

Vice-Chair Reeves inquired about feedback regarding CAMS implementation and the timing of the rollout. Chief Willoughby advised that they have primarily received feedback from field offices and that feedback has been largely positive. Fixes and improvements have been made based on feedback. The timing of the CAMS rollout has been slightly accelerated above initial projections. Vice-Chair Reeves thanked the IT staff and the ALJs for their work implementing and transitioning to conducting appeals within CAMS.

Member Eng commended Chief Willoughby for his work.

Member Allen asked about potential impacts of the State's various information systems on CUIAB's ability to retire its legacy case management system. Chief Willoughby advised that due to the designs of CUIAB's legacy system and CAMS, CUIAB can continue to transmit data needed to other State systems.

Member Kent-Monning inquired about observing CAMS training in the field offices. Chief Willoughby described the rollout and training processes and advised that Board Members could observe various phases of this. Member Kent-Monning asked for a list of the CAMS training team and confirmed that IT is receiving the feedback Board members provide as they utilize CAMS.

9. Chief Administrative Services, Robert Silva Report:

Since the August Board meeting, there were 10 reported COVID cases.

Five support staff employees have been hired and three support staff separations. Recruitment for new hires continues.

As of September 19, 2022, the State's weekly testing requirement for unvaccinated state employees is no longer required. The supplemental paid sick leave program will expire on September 30, 2022, but there is legislation pending to extend it.

After the August Board Meeting in which the Board approved the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Budget, Administrative Services began purchasing various large items, computer hardware and software, engaging in minor facility updates in field offices and conducting modular furniture installations.

Member Eng thanked Chief Silva for providing an employee attrition/retention report and commended CUIAB on its performance in hiring and retaining employees.

Member Allen whether the COVID protocols are still in place in the field offices. Chief Silva advised that with the exception of the testing requirements, all COVID protocols remain the same. Member Allen inquired about potential impacts of the collective bargaining agreements on CUIAB's recently-adopted budget. Chief Silva advised that the employee compensation increases in the agreements are in line with the CUIAB's projections and budget.

Closed Session:

There was no Closed Session.

Adjournment