

**MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD
Docket No. 5685**

Open Session

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 1:00 p.m., January 18, 2023, with Chair Marty Block presiding.

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

2. Approval of the Minutes:

The December 15, 2022, Meeting Minutes were approved.

3. Chair's Report:

Since the last meeting, the Board resolved 1,028 second-level appeals, and Field Office Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) resolved thousands of first-level appeals.

Chair Block welcomed CUIAB's newest Board Member Bob Wieckowski and welcomed Vice-Chair Michael Allen back as the Board's Vice-Chair.

Chair Block discussed the possibility of changing the February Board meeting date.

Chair Block reported that the National Association of Unemployment Insurance Appeals Professionals (NAUIAP) will be hosting a webinar on February 14, 2023, titled "Dealing With People You Can't Stand."

4. Board Member Reports:

Vice-Chair Allen thanked the CUIAB staff for their ongoing work and reflected on his ten years of service with the Board.

Member Eng commended Vice-Chair Allen on his service and welcomed Member Wieckowski to CUIAB.

Member Kent-Monning welcomed Member Wieckowski to CUIAB and congratulated Vice-Chair Allen on his 10th year of service. Member Kent-Monning thanked Gavin Powell and CUIAB's information technology team for their work implementing CAMS.

Member Wieckowski reflected on the importance of CUIAB's work and thanked CUIAB's staff for their assistance in providing orientation and training.

5. Public Comment

Richard Miller commented on his efforts to obtain employment with CUIAB.

6. Chief ALJ/Executive Director Report:

Chief Cutri welcomed Board Member Bob Wieckowski to CUIAB.

In December, the field offices resolved over 25,800 appeals. The volume of monthly appeals decreased from approximately 77% higher than pre-pandemic levels to approximately 44% higher. CUIAB continues ongoing discussions with EDD to project workload.

CUIAB closed 2.2% of cases within 30 days and 3.5% of cases within 45 days. The average case age was 125 days. Appeal timeliness continues to be a nationwide problem with the national average case age rising to 237 days.

CUIAB recently hired 22 new ALJs. An ALJ training cohort began mid-December, conducted by San Diego Office of Appeals Supervising Administrative Law Judge, Catriona Morrison. The cohort is now conducting hearings. A second ALJ cohort is undergoing training and a third cohort is anticipated to commence training in March.

Since the last Board meeting, there was a significant decrease in positive COVID-19 cases and office closures. CUIAB offices did not experience sustained power outages during the recent storms.

The Fresno, Oxnard, Orange County, and San Jose Offices of Appeals are now fully operating within CAMS. CUIAB anticipates implementing CAMS in the San Diego Office of Appeals in March.

Member Kent-Monning commended the Field Office ALJs and support staff for their work resolving cases.

Member Eng thanked Chief Cutri for his availability between Board meetings and inquired whether EDD's recent efforts processing Pandemic Unemployment Assistance claims have impacted CUIAB's caseload. Chief Cutri advised that these efforts have not significantly impacted the caseload. Lastly, Member Eng asked about a potential timeline when CUIAB's entire workload will be conducted in CAMS. Chief Cutri indicated the estimated time for this is late Summer/early Fall 2023.

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

Supervising Administrative Law Judge Bach reported that during December, AO resolved 58.2% of its cases within 45 days and 91.2% within 75 days. The average case age was 46.6 days.

Member Eng thanked Judge Bach for providing CAMS training, Member Kent-Monning and colleagues, and Administrative Law Judge Marilee Wang for their work improving CAMS' functionality. Judge Bach reported there are currently three AO ALJs completely utilizing CAMS and anticipates CAMS will be fully implemented in AO when it becomes operational in all Field Offices.

8. Chief Information Officer, Jefferson Willoughby Report:

Chief Information Officer Willoughby wished the Board a Happy New Year and welcomed Board Member Bob Wieckowski.

CIO Willoughby reported that since the last Board meeting, the root causes of technical issues impacting the CAMS rollout were identified and addressed. Issues involving the automatic scheduling of cases have been resolved. Processes impacting document generation continue to undergo improvement.

Vice-Chair Allen inquired about the status of CAMS' online portal and a kiosk for members of the public to access their cases at field offices. CIO Willoughby reported that parties whose cases are within CAMS can currently access their case via the portal. IT is prepared to implement facilities by which members of the public may come to field offices and access their cases within the CAMS portal.

Member Eng expressed his gratitude to CUIAB staff for their work implementing

CAMS. Member Eng inquired about avenues for CUIAB to receive feedback from portal users. CIO Willoughby advised that CUIAB does not currently have dedicated feedback channels for portal users, but has received public comments on its functionality. Member Eng encouraged the creation of a public feedback tool.

9. Chief of Administrative Services, Robert Silva Report:

Chief Silva welcomed Board Member Bob Wieckowski.

There are six Administrative Law Judges in the current training cohort and six ALJs are scheduled for the following cohort in February. CUIAB continues to hire additional ALJs in its current recruitment.

Since the December Board meeting, CUIAB hired four support staff. Seventeen support staff recruitments are pending.

Since the last meeting, there were 12 reported COVID cases.

Agencies are required to submit information technology cost reports annually to the California Department of Technology by February 1. Chief Silva thanked CIO Willoughby and the IT team for their assistance in preparing these.

On January 12, Administrative Services released the Personnel and Operating Expenses Budget Call Letters for State Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The budget requests will be consolidated and reviewed by the Executive Director.

Vice Chair Allen expressed his appreciation for Chief Silva's inclusivity to all branches of CUAB through the course of CUIAB's budgeting process.

Member Kent-Monning inquired about the meaning of a "cost center" for budgeting. Chief Silva explained this terminology used within CUIAB's budget.

Member Eng requested clarification regarding staff hires and attrition during the 2022 calendar year. Chief Silva advised that the number of newly-hired staff approximately equaled the amount of existing staff attrition during 2022. Member Eng inquired whether there may be a negative impact on CUIAB based on the Governor's proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget. CUIAB anticipates receiving information regarding potential budgetary impacts in mid-March in preparation for the May budget revise.

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Closed Session:

There was no Closed Session.

Adjournment