

**MINUTES  
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD  
Docket No. 5687**

**Open Session**

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 1:00 p.m., March 22, 2023, with Vice-Chair Michael Allen presiding.

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

**2. Approval of the Minutes:**

The February 23, 2023, Meeting Minutes were approved.

**3. Chair's Report:**

Vice-Chair Allen reported since the last meeting, the Board resolved 1,212 second-level appeals, and Field Office Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) resolved thousands of first-level appeals.

**4. Board Member Reports:**

Member Eng thanked Vice-Chair Allen for serving as the acting Chair and thanked the CUIAB staff for their work.

Member Kent-Monning thanked Vice-Chair Allen for serving as acting Chair and also thanked the CUIAB's staff and ALJs for their work resolving 32,125 appeals during the month of February.

Member Wieckowski reported on the status of his training and commended the field offices for their work.

**5. Public Comment**

Richard Miller commented on the role of the Board.

## **6. Chief ALJ/Executive Director Report:**

Chief Cutri reported that the San Diego Office of Appeals was undergoing its CAMS rollout.

In February, the field offices resolved over 32,000 appeals. The volume of monthly appeals decreased from approximately 77% higher than pre-pandemic levels to approximately 33% higher. CUIAB continues discussions with EDD to project workload. Though the average case age increased to 140.2 days, CUIAB anticipates it will be able to decrease this and its performance remains significantly ahead of the national average.

With the improving public health conditions, CUIAB has re-opened its lobbies to the public to assist with their appeal questions.

CUIAB continues to hire ALJs to address its appeals backlog, recently hiring 24 new ALJs with several more in process. The 16<sup>th</sup> ALJ cohort training will begin after the conclusion of the ALJ recruitment and will be conducted by San Diego Office of Appeals Supervising Administrative Law Judge, Catriona Morrison.

Since the February Board meeting, CUIAB has not had any office closures due to COVID-19.

Chief Cutri reported that the Office of Administrative Law has approved CUIAB's regulation changes and they will go into effect on April 1, 2023. Chief Cutri thanked the Board for its work on the regulations.

Member Eng commended Chief Cutri and Chief Willoughby for their work in the San Diego field office during the CAMS rollout and inquired about the estimated date for CAMS' implementation in the remaining field offices. Chief Cutri advised this is intended to be done by the end of the calendar year. Member Eng inquired about CUIAB's plans in the event of an upcoming California recession. Chief Cutri advised that due to CUIAB's staffing increases over the past years, it should be positioned well to respond to a potential recession.

Member Kent-Monning thanked Chief Cutri and Chief Willoughby for their work on the CAMS rollout in San Diego. Member Kent-Monning thanked the staff for their work completing CUIAB's regulatory changes.

Vice-Chair Allen thanked Chief Cutri for his work in providing information to him between meetings.

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

Supervising Administrative Law Judge Bach reported that during February, AO resolved 47.9% of its cases within 45 days and 79% within 75 days. The average case age was 43 days.

Member Eng thanked Supervising Judge Bach for her timely assistance with cases and asked when she anticipates all AO ALJs will work on cases within CAMS. Judge Bach advised that two full-time AO ALJs are not yet working within CAMS but training is anticipated to be completed by June. Member Eng thanked the AO ALJs for their work.

Member Kent-Monning inquired about the DOL reporting date. Judge Bach advised the DOL reporting period is through March 31.

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

CIO Willoughby reported that he has observed Assistant Chief Hugh Harrison conduct multiple comprehensive CAMS training sessions. CUIAB continues to confer with the Department of Technology to identify root causes of the technical issues impacting the CAMS implementation and to improve its long-term stability, functionality, and performance. CIO Willoughby thanked the Board for its support throughout this process.

Chief Willoughby reported that a link to provide feedback on CUIAB's public portal will go live on March 23. Staff will review the feedback in order to improve the system. Member Eng requested periodic summaries of the portal feedback and asked when CAMS language access would be at parity with the legacy system. CIO Willoughby advised that CAMS language access is currently at parity with its legacy system and enhanced language capabilities are under review in collaboration with the Department of Technology.

Member Kent-Monning thanked those who worked on the portal feedback mechanism and looks forward to receiving the input.

Member Wieckowski inquired about the impact of CAMS on the disparities between

field office case verifications timelines. Chief Cutri advised that one of the primary benefits of CAMS is the ability to electronically transfer workload among the field offices based on capacity in order to improve statewide processing timelines.

Vice-Chair Allen commended the entire CUIAB organization for their work in challenging circumstances.

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

Chief Silva reported that six new Administrative Law Judges have completed their initial training. CUIAB continues to recruit additional ALJs.

Since the February Board meeting, CUIAB hired one support staff and 18 are pending.

Since the last meeting, there were 16 reported COVID cases.

At the end of February, CUIAB's approved approximately \$50,000 in operating expenses to replace furniture throughout field offices and will commence purchase orders.

Discussions began between CUIAB and EDD's Program Estimates Group regarding workload projections for the 23/24 Fiscal Year. At this time, there is no anticipated negative impact on CUIAB's budget based on workload in the coming fiscal year.

Member Kent-Monning inquired about increases in positive COVID on CUIAB staff and the ability to telework. Chief Silva advised that some classifications are unable to telework and therefore impacted employees unable to work utilize personal time off. Classifications able to telework coordinate with their Legal Support Supervisors to facilitate telework scheduling.

Vice-Chair Allen inquired about the impacts of the State's ongoing changes to COVID protocols on CUIAB's protocols. Chief Silva advised that CUIAB continues to follow the State's protocols as they are revised.

#### **Closed Session:**

There was no Closed Session.

#### **Adjournment**