

**MINUTES  
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD  
Docket No. 5688**

**Open Session**

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 1:00 p.m., April 19, 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 March 22, 2023, Meeting Minutes were approved.

**3. Chair's Report:**

Vice-Chair Allen reported that since the last meeting, the Board resolved 1,291 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, lauded Member Wieckowski for his expeditious work on cases, and thanked the CUIAB staff for their work.

Member Kent-Monning commended CUIAB's staff for resolving approximately 34,000 cases in March 2023 and congratulated the San Diego Office of Appeals for its implementation of CAMS.

Member Wieckowski praised the Administrative Law Judges for their work on decisions.

Vice-Chair Allen reported that 468 of the 1,291 second-level appeals were resolved through CAMS.

## **5. Public Comment**

Richard Miller commented on the role of the Board.

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

In March, the field offices resolved over 34,090 appeals. The volume of monthly appeals decreased from approximately 77% higher than pre-pandemic levels to approximately 38% higher. CUIAB continues discussions with EDD to project workload. The average case age decreased to 139.1 days. CUIAB anticipates it will be able to shorten this and its performance remains significantly ahead of the national average.

CUIAB continues to hire ALJs to address its appeals backlog, recently hiring 26 new ALJs with several more in process. The 16th ALJ training cohort 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.

Chief Cutri reported that the San Diego Office of Appeals is fully utilizing CAMS. The Sacramento Office of Appeals will be the next office to implement it.

Since the March Board meeting, CUIAB has not had any office closures due to COVID-19. CUIAB and CHP are monitoring a security incident involving the Inland Office of Appeals.

Vice-Chair Allen inquired about CUIAB's security officers. Chief Cutri advised that the CHP is CUIAB's designated security and that he and the Legal office serve as liaisons.

Member Eng commended Chief Cutri, Chief Willoughby and the CAMS team for implementing CAMS in the San Diego Office of Appeals. Member Eng inquired about the estimated completion of the CAMS rollouts, to which Chief Cutri indicated CUIAB remains on track to complete this by the end of 2023.

Member Kent-Monning inquired about how long CUIAB is expected to continue receiving a high volume of cases. Chief Cutri advised that CUIAB awaits upcoming economic reports to evaluate this.

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

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

Supervising Administrative Law Judge Bach reported that during March, AO resolved 71.4% of its cases within 45 days and 88.4% within 75 days. The average case age was 31.8 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 training is anticipated to be completed by June. Member Eng inquired about the duration of the cases in the legacy system. Judge Bach stated ALJs will continue to utilize the legacy system while cases heard at the FO continue to use the legacy system.

Member Kent-Monning commended Judge Bach for her work.

Vice-Chair Allen expressed his gratitude to the CUIAB staff.

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

CIO Willoughby reported that CUIAB is preparing to implement CAMS in the Sacramento Office of Appeals. CIO Willoughby also reported receiving positive feedback from the San Diego Office of Appeals for its implementation.

CUIAB is testing tools that substantially expand language access for its portal.

To date, CUIAB has received little public feedback on the CAMS portal using the newly-implemented feedback prompt, but will provide updates on this.

Member Eng thanked CIO Willoughby for his work on CAMS and expressed his appreciation for its functionality. Member Eng inquired about the CAMS public feedback prompt. CIO Willoughby described its contents.

Member Kent-Monning expressed her enthusiasm for improving the public portal's language access, thanked CIO Willoughby and the IT staff for their work on CAMS and recognized Siek Run for her work.

Member Wieckowski inquired about the consideration of legal issues using Google

translation tools for its portal. CIO Willoughby advised that the translations are being evaluated for accuracy and legal concerns will also be considered. Chief Cutri further advised that CUIAB continues to utilize professional translations of the core documents in the legally-required languages.

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

Chief Silva reported that the statewide recruitment for ALJs has concluded and CUIAB has commenced targeted ALJ recruitments in specific field offices.

In the first quarter of 2023, CUIAB hired 13 support staff and had 4 separations. There are currently 19 support staff hires pending.

Since the last meeting, there were 6 reported COVID cases.

CUIAB met with the EDD Fiscal Programs Division regarding workloads for State Fiscal Year 2023/2024. CUIAB is projected to have an increased workload in the upcoming State Fiscal Year.

Chief Silva reported that CUIAB purchased all requested furniture and equipment by the State Fiscal Year 2022/2023 cutoff date.

CalHR has authorized the Leave Buy Back Program and Chief Silva provided details regarding the program and CUIAB employees are encouraged to participate.

Member Eng inquired about anticipated changes concerning CUIAB's funding in the May revise. Chief Silva advised that CUIAB's funding is not anticipated to be decreased. Member Eng also inquired about CUIAB's facility capacity for in-office and teleworking staff. Chief Silva indicated that CUIAB has sufficient space for all to work in-office as needed.

Member Kent-Monning inquired regarding the logistics of necessary purchases between now and the beginning of the next Fiscal Year. Chief Silva advised on the options for ensuring necessary purchases can be made.

Member Wieckowski inquired about the budgeting and allocation processes between EDD and CUIAB. Chief Silva described these.

**Closed Session:**

There was no Closed Session.

**Adjournment**