

**MINUTES  
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD  
Docket No. 5694**

**Open Session**

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 11:00 a.m., October 19, 2023, with Chair Michael Allen presiding.

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

**2. Approval of the Minutes:**

The September 20, 2023, Meeting Minutes were approved.

**3. Chair's Report:**

Chair Allen expressed his appreciation for the entire CUIAB staff, at all levels of the organization.

Since the last meeting, CUIAB resolved over 31,000 appeals, 865 of which were issued within CAMS.

**4. Board Member Reports:**

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning commended the field office staff and ALJs for their work to decrease the volume of open cases. Vice-Chair Kent-Monning thanked the IT team for their help with technical issues in CAMS impacting Board members.

Member Eng thanked the IT team and Vice-Chair Kent-Monning for their assistance.

Member Wieckowski will visit the San Diego field office in November.

**5. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**6. Chief ALJ/Executive Director, Michael Cutri Report:**

In September, the field offices issued approximately 31,000 decisions. The volume of monthly appeals received slightly increased by approximately 3%. The average case age slightly decreased to 136.7 days. CUIAB anticipates it will be able to shorten this and its performance remains significantly ahead of the national average of 198 days. Chief Cutri will meet with the Department of Labor to discuss the progress on reducing the appeals backlog.

The Inland Office of Appeals is fully integrated into CAMS and the Pasadena Office of Appeals is in progress. The Bay Area Office of Appeals and Office of Tax Petitions will follow. CUIAB has accepted the last batches of hardcopy appeals files; moving forward all appeals will be transmitted via CAMS.

The Bay Area Office of Appeals was evacuated due to the earthquake.

Member Wieckowski inquired about discrepancies among field offices between the times of hearing and the times decisions are mailed as well as case creation dates to verification dates. Chief Cutri described the processes, the impacts of office staffing levels, and the status of the implementation of CAMS in the office on these timing issues.

Chair Allen inquired about security incidents. Chief Cutri advised there were none to report this month.

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

Supervising Administrative Law Judge Bach reported that during September, 36.4% of the second-level appeals were resolved within 45 days and 67.4% within 75 days. The average case age was 42.1 days.

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning inquired whether the decrease in closed cases for September was a result of staff training and planned time off. Supervising Judge Bach advised that was correct.

Member Eng commended the AO staff and IT team for their rapid assistance with the recent technological issues.

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

CIO Willoughby reported on progress regarding language access. CIO Willoughby is hopeful by the November Board meeting the Spanish portion of the portal will be launched. Vietnamese and Traditional and Simplified Chinese will follow.

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning asked whether Board members would be granted access to the portal to review the Spanish translations. CIO Willoughby advised that the Board members will be granted access and that it is currently available in the testing environment.

Member Eng inquired about languages that will be available in the public portal. CIO Willoughby advised that the languages currently intended will be Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese. There are no additional planned languages at this time.

Member Wieckowski inquired about when the Bay Area Office of Appeals integration to CAMS will occur. CIO Willoughby stated this is intended to take place by the end of the calendar year.

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

Chief Silva reported that CUIAB is currently undergoing Training Cohort 19 for the Administrative Law Judges. Two ALJs have been recently hired for the Orange County Office of Appeals.

Since the September Board meeting, there have been three support staff hires with eighteen pending.

CUIAB recently completed its internal audit regarding CUIAB's bilingual employees.

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning and Member Eng inquired about challenges in support staff recruitment. Chief Silva advised that some individuals have declined offers of employment, but that CUIAB has a high rate of success in individuals accepting offers.

Chair Allen noted that post-pandemic, there have been nationwide challenges in hiring.

**Closed Session:**

The Board recessed the open session to convene a closed session.

**Open Session:**

The Board reconvened open session and announced that during closed session the Board deliberated on and voted to remove the Precedential Designations of Case Numbers 92-00449 and 84-4571, previously designated Precedent Benefit Decision Numbers P-B-474 and P-B-436, respectively.

**Adjournment**