

**MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD
Docket No. 5700**

Open Session

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 11:00 a.m., April 17, 2024, with Chair Michael Allen presiding.

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

2. Approval of the Minutes:

The March 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes were approved.

3. Chair's Report:

Since the last meeting, the Board resolved approximately 1,172 second-level appeals, 1,132 of which were issued within CAMS. Chair Allen expressed his appreciation to all levels of the CUIAB organization.

4. Board Member Reports:

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning commended the Appellate and Field Operations on their work since the last Board meeting.

Member Eng expressed his appreciation for IT and the Pasadena Field Office for their recent technical support.

Member Wieckowski expressed his appreciation for IT and the Bay Area Field Office for their recent technical support and reported on potential amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Code contained in SB 1434 (Durazo).

5. Public Comment

No public comment.

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

In March, the field offices issued 28,380 decisions and reduced the open case inventory by approximately 4,771 cases. Incoming appeals are approximately 6% above pre-pandemic levels and the average case age decreased to 96.9 days, significantly ahead of the 253-day national average.

Chief Cutri will meet with the U.S. Department of Labor regarding CUIAB's progress in reducing the case backlog and average case age. Chief Cutri will attend the National Unemployment Insurance Professionals Conference in June and resume meetings with the U.S. Department of Labor, Region 6, at the end of summer. Chief Cutri reported that the Department of Labor was pleased with the recent Appellate Operations trends. Assistant Chief Hugh Harrison will attend the National Appeals Review Conference in Washington, D.C. on behalf of CUIAB. Chief Cutri stated he does not expect major changes to DOL's Quality Review standards at this time, but that some changes are being considered for future implementation.

On March 18, a CUIAB employee was confronted outside one of the Los Angeles basin offices by an individual with no connection to CUIAB. The appropriate authorities were contacted, and the incident was resolved.

Member Eng inquired about a projected timeframe when cases will no longer be processed within CUIAB's legacy system. Chief Willoughby advised that the final migration of cases will follow the end of CUIAB's engagement with the Department of Technology stabilization and vendor.

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

Supervising Administrative Law Judge Bach reported that during March, 19.7% of second-level appeals were resolved within 45 days and 56.5% within 75 days. The final end-of-year measurement is 37.2% closed within 45 days, and 59.8% within 75 days. The average case age was 44.1 days and CUIAB's performance remains significantly ahead of the 165-day national average.

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning thanked Supervising Judge Bach for her continued leadership and ongoing CAMS training for the Board.

Member Eng thanked Judge Bach for her training work and ongoing assistance on

cases.

Member Wieckowski commended Supervising Judge Bach for her work providing CAMS training.

Chair Allen inquired about a copy of the existing quality control criteria utilized by the U.S. Department of Labor in evaluating unemployment insurance appeal hearings. Supervising Judge Bach will provide a copy to the Board.

8. Chief Information Officer, Jefferson Willoughby Report

CIO Willoughby reported that CUIAB continues to work with the Department of Technology vendor regarding CAMS and the engagement time has been extended through August. This will improve various aspects of CAMS usability and facilitate the migration of tax appeals into CAMS.

Member Eng inquired about the various languages, aside from Spanish, that currently meet the threshold for translation in the CAMS portal. Chief Willoughby advised that Vietnamese, traditional, and simplified Chinese are scheduled.

Chair Allen asked about the differences between the tax appeals and unemployment cases impacting implementation in CAMS. Chief Cutri described the distinct processes involved in tax and unemployment cases. Chair Allen asked whether tax appeals are included in CUIAB's backlog count. Chief Cutri advised that tax cases are included in the total inventory. CUIAB received a budget allocation specifically for work on tax cases and CUIAB has been utilizing those funds.

9. Chief of Administrative Services, Robert Silva Report:

Since the March Board meeting, there have been three support staff hires with fifteen recruitments pending. Support staff recruitment has begun to slow down as the incoming workload has decreased. By using CAMS' capability to electronically transfer cases between offices, CUIAB can efficiently adjust fluctuations in appeals with field office staffing levels.

Chief Silva reported the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 deadline to submit purchase orders for operating expenses for equipment and supplies. With the projected budget shortfall, there may be a delay in enacting the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 State Budget.

Member Wieckowski inquired whether CUIAB has additional scanner purchase

needs due to increased scanning requirements in CAMS. Chief Silva advised that he is working with IT to project the number of scanners needed for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Member Eng inquired about the availability of office space due to the potential return-to-office requirements for state workers. Chief Silva stated that CUIAB has meetings with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency scheduled to discuss return-to-office implementation issues; but that he does not anticipate any challenges regarding office space.

Closed Session:

There was no Closed Session.

Adjournment