

**MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD
Docket No. 5701**

Open Session

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 11:00 a.m., May 15, 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 Board approved the April 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

3. Chair's Report:

Since the last meeting, the Board resolved approximately 1,355 second-level appeals, 1,297 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 congratulated Chair Allen on his recent reappointment as Chair. Vice-Chair Kent-Monning commended the field and appellate operations for their work in reducing case age. Vice-Chair Kent-Monning thanked Supervising Judge Bach and the IT staff for their assistance creating and implementing an updated Acknowledgment Letter.

Member Eng congratulated Chair Allen on his reappointment and thanked IT for assistance with recent technology issues.

Member Wieckowski congratulated Chair Allen on his recent reappointment and commended the updated Acknowledgement Letter.

5. Public Comment

No public comment.

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

Chief Cutri congratulated Chair Allen on his reappointment.

In April, the field offices issued 26,000 decisions and reduced the open case inventory by approximately 3,500 cases. Incoming appeals are approximately 7% above pre-pandemic levels and the average case age decreased to 91 days, significantly ahead of the 247-day national average.

CUIAB continues to meet with the U.S. Department of Labor regarding reducing the case backlog and average case age. In April, Assistant Chief Hugh Harrison attended the National Appeals Review Conference in Washington, D.C. California performed well during the audit of its quality review scoring and there were no substantive changes to DOL's quality review standards. Chief Cutri will attend the National Association of Unemployment Insurance Appeals Professionals (NAUIAP) conference.

Since the Board's last meeting, there have been four support staff hires and five separations. There are currently nineteen recruitments pending.

The Governor's May 24/25 Budget Revise was released and shows a future position reduction in various departments; however, impacts on CUIAB are not yet determined.

Chair Allen requested information on the reason for employee attrition. Chief Cutri advised that the majority of the separations were retirements; however, there were also transfers to different agencies.

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning inquired about options with other state agencies to assist CUIAB with recruiting. Chief Cutri advised that CUIAB is exploring cross-posting with other state agencies.

Member Eng inquired about the May 24/25 Budget Revise and potential negative impacts on CUIAB. Chief Cutri confirmed that the revise contemplates statewide staffing reductions across departments; however, specific impacts on CUIAB are not yet known. Member Eng commended Chief Cutri for his work with other agencies

in the NAUIAP conference.

Member Wieckowski inquired about substantive changes to DOL's Quality Review standards. Chief Cutri stated the last revision occurred in 2011.

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

Supervising Administrative Law Judge Bach congratulated Chair Allen on his reappointment.

Judge Bach reported that during April, 26.2% of second-level appeals were resolved within 45 days and 84.2% within 75 days. The average case age was 36.5 days.

Member Eng thanked Judge Bach for her work conducting training and preparing the updated Acknowledgment Letter. Member Eng thanked IT for their continued support.

Member Wieckowski inquired about the case registration process in the field and appellate operations.

Chair Allen commended Vice-Chair Kent-Monning for her ongoing work with CAMS. Vice-Chair Kent-Monning thanked IT and Judge Bach for their work and dedication to improving CAMS.

8. Chief Information Officer, Jefferson Willoughby Report

CIO Willoughby congratulated Chair Allen on his reappointment.

CIO Willoughby reported that the CAMS portal now provides Vietnamese language functionality. Traditional and simplified Chinese are scheduled next. IT continues to work on enhancing CAMS usability.

Chair Allen thanked IT for the user interface revisions to CAMS.

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning thanked IT for their work on CAMS.

Member Eng inquired about how IT receives feedback regarding the MyAppeal public portal. CIO Willoughby advised that IT utilizes the MyAppeal FAQ page as a primary source for the public to provide feedback. Chief Cutri reported that CUIAB meets quarterly with advocate groups and receives input regarding the public portal.

Member Wieckowski thanked IT for their work improving language access in the CAMS portal.

Chair Allen thanked IT for their work.

9. Chief of Administrative Services, Robert Silva Report:

Chief Cutri previously reported on the Administrative Services Branch.

Chief Counsel Mark Woo-Sam expressed his gratitude for Chair Allen's work and congratulated him on his reappointment.

Closed Session:

The Board recessed to convene a closed session to consider the appointment of a CEA, Chief of Administrative Service/Equity Officer.

Open Session:

The Board reconvened open session and announced that during closed session the Board voted to move forward with the administrative processes for the selection and appointment of CUIAB's Chief of Administrative Services/Equity Officer.

Adjournment