

**MINUTES  
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD  
Docket No. 5702**

**Open Session**

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 11:00 a.m., June 19, 2024, with Chair Michael Allen presiding.

<b>1. Roll Call: <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 Minutes:**

The Board approved the May 15, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

**3. Chair's Report:**

Since the last meeting, the Board resolved approximately 1,550 second-level appeals, 1,440 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 thanked the Administrative Law Judges Association for allowing her to attend a training course and Administrative Law Judge Miles for conducting the training. Vice-Chair Kent-Monning commended the field offices for reducing the open case inventory and Appellate Operations for its work lowering the average case age.

Member Eng thanked all levels of the CUIAB organization and recognized the Juneteenth celebration.

**5. Public Comment**

No public comment.

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

Chief Cutri announced that Chief Silva has been selected to be CUIAB's Administrative Services Chief and Equity Officer.

In May, the field offices closed 28,984 cases. Incoming appeals have returned to pre-pandemic levels and the average case age decreased to 86 days, significantly ahead of the 238-day national average. The field offices have calendared over 1,300 cases for hearing and are now able to register cases for other field offices utilizing CAMS.

CUIAB held its quarterly meeting with the U.S. Department of Labor and shared the Board's progress towards meeting DOL's timing metrics.

Chair Allen and Vice-Chair Kent-Monning congratulated Chief Silva on his promotion.

Member Wieckowski commented on CUIAB's progress resolving appeals and efficiencies in the CAMS system.

Member Eng inquired about the remainder of time the CAMS vendor will be available to work on the CAMS system. Chief Cutri advised that the engagement is through the end of August. Additionally, CUIAB has reinforced its staff with SalesForce skills in order to continue improving CAMS after the vendor contract has ended.

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

Supervising Judge Bach reported that during May, 62.8% of second-level appeals were resolved within 45 days and 95.6% within 75 days. The average case age was 30.3 days.

Member Wieckowski inquired about the likelihood of achieving 100% closed cases within 75 days. Judge Bach advised she is unaware whether this might be accomplished, but CAMS is improving CUIAB's efficiency.

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

CIO Willoughby reported that CUIAB has approximately 10 weeks remaining in its engagement with the CAMS stabilization team and described the improvements and functionality the CAMS system has provided to CUIAB's operations and the public.

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning thanked Chief Willoughby for offering a retrospective on the accomplishments of the CAMS project.

Member Wieckowski inquired about the technological potential to implement Zoom functionality in hearings. Chief Willoughby advised that the MS Teams application CUIAB currently uses provides equivalent functionality to the Zoom platform.

Chair Allen inquired about the language access progress in the public portal. Chief Willoughby advised that work is ongoing on this and that in the 24/25 Fiscal Year, CUIAB will procure a software character set enabling simplified and traditional Chinese language functionality in the portal.

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

Since the May Board meeting, there have been three support staff hires with twelve 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 field office workloads to their respective staffing levels.

Chief Silva reported that the Governor released the May budget revision for State Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and there were no specific changes to CUIAB's budget. However, the May revision proposes statewide expenditure reductions. The projected shortfall for the State Fiscal Year 2024-2025 is \$27.6 million and \$28.4 million for State Fiscal Year 2025-2026. To address the projected shortfalls, the May revision proposes an 8% reduction in all expenditure categories for every State department and a permanent elimination of vacant positions.

Chief Silva provided the history and an update on the State's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) efforts. The Labor and Workforce Development Agency will begin working on its strategic plan and will host a four-part training on racial equity. LWDA is also developing a cross-agency equity community of practice work group focusing on challenges, opportunities, and best practices regarding DEIA.

Member Eng congratulated Chief Silva on his promotion and inquired when the elimination of vacant positions would take place. Chief Silva advised that agencies will work with the Department of Finance in the fall to identify positions and associated savings.

Member Wieckowski asked whether employee retirements are considered vacancies. Chief Silva confirmed when an employee's retirement is finalized, the position is considered vacant.

**Closed Session:**

There was no closed session.

**Adjournment**