

**MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD
Docket No. 5704**

Open Session

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 11:00 a.m., August 21, 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 Minutes:

The Board approved the July 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

3. Chair's Report:

Since the last meeting, the Board resolved approximately 887 second-level appeals, 858 of which were issued within CAMS. Chair Allen offered his condolences to former CUIAB Board member and former member of the California State Senate, Ellen Corbett.

4. Board Member Reports:

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning thanked the IT department for their assistance in facilitating her remote attendance of the Board meeting and recognized the field offices for their work.

Member Eng expressed his appreciation for Chair Allen for his leadership and his collaborative approach.

Member Wieckowski expressed his appreciation for Chair Allen and offered his condolences for Ellen Corbett's passing. Member Wieckowski also recognized the field offices for their work.

5. Public Comment

Richard Miller commented on his conflict with CUIAB.

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

In July, the field offices closed approximately 26,000 cases. Incoming appeals have returned to pre-pandemic levels and the average case age decreased to 76.3 days, significantly ahead of the 219-day national average.

Chief Cutri reported that DOL is contemplating adding two quality review criteria. This will be further discussed during the Region Six meeting.

Since the last Board meeting, there was one security incident involving vandalism in a field office. CHP responded and is investigating.

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

Supervising Judge Bach reported that during July, 87.2% of second-level appeals were resolved within 45 days and 96.5% within 75 days. The average case age was 22.1 days.

Supervising Judge Bach reported that AO will begin cross-training ALJs in September.

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning expressed her enthusiasm for the upcoming cross-training.

Member Eng thanked SJ Bach for her assistance and expressed his support for the upcoming cross-training.

Member Wieckowski also expressed his appreciation for AO's work and the upcoming cross-training.

8. Chief Information Officer, Jefferson Willoughby Report

CIO Willoughby reported that the CAMS stabilization team has delivered their final product and is now ready for testing. The subject-matter experts will conduct testing over the coming weeks.

CIO Willoughby thanked Mark Smith for his contributions to the CAMS rollouts, and the entire IT staff.

Vice-Chair Kent Monning also expressed her appreciation for Mark Smith's work and requested information on the status of procuring language access software. CIO Willoughby advised that procurement was completed and the software will be tested.

Member Eng inquired about the remaining large items that were not completed by the CAMS vendor and how they will be addressed. CIO Willoughby advised that implementing the Office of Tax Petitions workload into CAMS is the largest remaining undertaking and believes the IT staff can accomplish this using internal staff. Member Eng also requested clarification on the Department of Technology's ongoing assistance. CIO Willoughby explained that the Department of Technology will remain available for assistance despite the conclusion of the vendor contract. Member Eng asked if a survey might be conducted to solicit feedback regarding further improvements to CAMS. CIO Willoughby advised that IT receives ongoing feedback on CAMS and will continue to work to improve its operation.

Chair Allen expressed his appreciation for the individuals who have worked to implement CAMS.

9. Chief of Administrative Services, Robert Silva Report:

Since the July Board meeting, there has been one support staff hire and one promotion. Two additional support staff hires, and one promotion are scheduled for September 1. Seven recruitments are pending.

Chief Silva reported that he and Assistant Director Gregory Crettol met with the Labor and Workforce Development Agency's vendor regarding diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility efforts to assist in developing LWDA's Equity Centered Strategic Plan.

Chief Silva advised that the categorical State Fiscal Year 2024-2025 allocations will be presented at the September Board meeting. The administration's budget reduction initiatives will result in a total reduction of 6-7 CUIAB positions. This can be accomplished through the elimination of current vacancies and is not anticipated to significantly impact CUIAB's ability to serve the public.

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning inquired about CUIAB's ability to respond to potential increases in workload in light of position reductions. Chief Silva advised that even

with the vacancy reductions, CUIAB would continue to have vacant positions that could be filled with new hires to address workload increases as needed.

Member Eng asked whether CUIAB is expected to create its own policy regarding the Equity Centered Strategic Plan or whether it is subject to a statewide or agency plan. Chief Silva advised that LWDA is required to develop the plan that CUIAB will follow. LWDA is currently developing this plan with its vendor and the participation of the LWDA departments.

Closed Session:

There was no closed session.

Adjournment