

**MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD
Docket No. 5707**

Open Session

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 11:00 a.m., November 20, 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 October 16, 2024, Meeting Minutes, with Chair Allen abstaining.

3. Chair's Report:

Chair Allen thanked Vice-Chair Kent-Monning and the Board for conducting an efficient Board meeting in October. Chair Allen recognized Jefferson Willoughby for his work and dedication to CUIAB and wished him well in his future endeavors. Chair Allen further thanked the entire CUIAB staff.

4. Board Member Reports:

Vice-Chair Kent-Monning expressed her gratitude to Jefferson Willoughby and wished him well. She thanked Mark Smith for providing the update on the Information Technology Branch and welcomed Administrative Law Judges Cynthia Thornton and Craig Sanders to Appellate Operations.

Member Eng thanked Vice-Chair Kent-Monning for presiding in Chair Allen's absence and Jefferson Willoughby for his work.

Member Wieckowski expressed his appreciation for CUIAB's IT and CUIAB's work

as a whole reducing the case backlog.

5. Public Comment

No public comment.

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

In October, the average daily appeals intake remained relatively static, similar to the incoming appeals levels during 2019 and 2020. The field offices issued approximately 26,000 decisions, reducing the backlog by approximately 5,500 cases. The average case age decreased to 61 days, significantly ahead of the 192-day national average. CUIAB has begun scheduling its 2025 meetings with the U.S. Department of Labor and EDD.

Since the last Board meeting, the San Diego and Oxnard Offices of Appeals were temporarily closed for one day due to nearby fires.

Chief Cutri thanked Jefferson Willoughby for his work on CAMS over the past 5 years.

There have been no security incidents since the last meeting.

Member Eng suggested preparing a retrospective on CUIAB's work and accomplishments summarizing its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chair Allen reported that the Board resolved approximately 752 second-level appeals, 711 of which were issued within CAMS.

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

Supervising Judge Bach reported on the passing of Senay Franklin, a valued member of CUIAB for over 20 years.

Supervising Judge Bach reported that during October, 84.3% of second-level appeals were resolved within 45 days, 96.6% within 75 days. The average case age was 27.6 days.

Supervising Judge Bach welcomed Mark Smith to the Board meeting, who has helped with AO transitioning to CAMS.

8. Acting Chief Information Officer, Mark Smith Report

Acting CIO Smith reported that IT is in the process of filling two positions and is in the process of preparing the next software release for CAMS. Chinese will be the next language available on the portal.

9. Chief of Administrative Services, Robert Silva Report:

Chief Silva reported that recruitment efforts have now shifted to backfilling separations and promotion positions as they occur. Since the September meeting, there have not been any support staff hires, with attrition of three staff in three different field offices. There are currently 15 support staff hires pending, including four seasonal clerks.

Chief Silva reported that CUIAB submitted the Schedule 9 Call Letter Requests to EDD's Fiscal Programs Division. Chief Silva also provided an update on procurement since the Board's adoption of the budget at the September Board meeting.

CUIAB will engage in the biannual bilingual audit during November. There are 42 employees completing time ladders to ensure they continue to qualify for bilingual pay.

Closed Session:

There was no closed session.

Adjournment