

**MINUTES  
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD  
Docket No. 5613**

**Open Session**

The Appeals Board convened at 10:30 a.m., December 13, 2016, in Sacramento with Chair Marty Block presiding.

Member Dresser opened the meeting with the roll call and proceeded to turn over the meeting to the new Board Chair, Marty Block. He welcomed Chair Block to CUIAB.

<b>1. Roll Call: <u>Members</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
Marty Block, Chair	x	
Michael Allen, Vice Chair	x	
Ellen Corbett	x	
Robert Dresser	x	

**2. Approval of the Minutes:**

The October 25, 2016 Meeting Minutes, as amended, were approved by affirmative vote of Members Allen, Corbett and Dresser. Chair Block abstained.

The November 15, 2016 Meeting Minutes were approved by affirmative vote of Members Allen, Corbett and Dresser. Chair Block abstained.

**3. Chair's Report:**

Chair Block greeted everyone and stated he was honored to be appointed as the Board Chair. He thanked the Governor in abstention and commented that he looks forward to working again with Vice Chair Allen and Member Corbett with whom he worked in the Legislature.

Chair Block added that he looks forward to working with Member Dresser, Executive Director Gonzales and the entire staff. Chair Block observed that Member Dresser took over the Chair in troubled times when the economy was in a horrible downturn and CUIAB's workload was at a peak. Now, with most of that

backlogged cleared and with CUIAB out of federal Corrective Action, it is a good time to come in as Chair. He thanked Member Dresser and the other Board members, Executive Director Gonzales, and all the staff for their hard work.

Chair Block stated he resides in San Diego and will be there much of the time. He indicated that he has been a lawyer for 40 years and has experience as both a member and chair of various Boards. Among other positions, he served eight years as Chair of the Community College Governing Board in San Diego. Before that he was Chair of the County Board of Education in San Diego. He also chaired the statewide organization of County Boards of Education.

Chair Block indicated that he will start training on his appellate duties at the beginning of year. He will be in Sacramento on January 3, 2017 for training and meetings with staff. He thanked Cathy Vandeleur for his smooth transition and others who have assisted him thus far.

#### **4. Board Member Reports:**

Vice Chair Allen congratulated Chair Block on his appointment and is pleased that Chair Block will be working with the Board. He emphasized that Chair Block is someone who places a high value on team work.

Member Corbett also stated that she is quite happy that Chair Block has joined the Board. She congratulated him and commented that Chair Block is a very quick learner and will step into the job easily. She knows Chair Block will be a great team player, and thinks the Governor made a great choice when appointing him to the Board.

Member Corbett also thanked Member Dresser for all of his great work and leadership and commented that he has been a great Board Chair during some very difficult times.

Chair Block echoed Member Corbett's comments and thanked Member Dresser for all the help he has provided in the short time Chair Block has been at the Board.

Member Dresser thanked Members Corbett and Allen for all their contributions, especially all the cases that they did while he was the Chair. He thanked Executive Director Gonzales for all of her hard work in getting CUIAB out of Corrective Action. He thanked Hugh Harrison who assisted her in that effort. He thanked Chief ALJ Rose for her efforts. He thanked Chief Counsel Schwartz for being a steady hand as Chief Counsel. He thanked Ralph Hilton, who was the Chief

Counsel for many years, for his fine work. He thanked Rob Silva for his help and guidance. He thanked CIO Dressler for exceptional IT support. He also thanked Lori Kurosaka and Janet Maglinte for their excellent contributions. Also, he thanked Michelle Frachevois and Aida Zavala for always being very cordial and helpful. He thanked Mariluz Worden and Jessica Knieriem for making sure he was timely with his cases. He thanked Mary Werner for her excellent work. He also thanked Carl Vega for his excellence on the Security Committee and his investigations. He thanked ALJ Newcomb, noting her excellent work on the United Educators case which is now before the California Supreme Court. He thanked Marty Morgenstern and David Lanier, former and current Secretaries of Labor Agency. He also thanked Cathy Vandeleur for her excellent work as a legal assistant. Lastly, he thanked all of the staff for all of their contributions during his tenure as the Board Chair.

Member Dresser welcomed Chair Block to CUIAB.

**5. Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**6. Chief ALJ/Executive Director Report:**

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Gonzales commented that she too looks forward to working with Chair Block and congratulated former Chair Dresser for his leadership and life-long dedication as a public servant.

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Gonzales reported new job postings will be coming out for Field Office, IT and Appellate Operations positions.

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Gonzales reported that three different trainings were provided to the staff. She reported that the Workplace Violence Prevention training and the Sexual Harassment Prevention training are mandatory trainings that are scheduled to be done by the end of December. Also, Diversity training has been completed.

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Gonzales reported that the Field Offices have recently fallen behind on time lapse and case aging measurements due to a variety of factors, not the least of which was the November holiday and the focus on open tax case workload.

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Gonzales reported increased focus is being placed

on the March 31, 2017 deadline for timeliness standards and expressed confidence that those standards will be met.

**7. Chief ALJ of Appellate Operations, Elise Rose Report:**

Chief AO ALJ Rose also thanked Member Dresser for his contribution as Chair and expressed that she is glad he will be staying on as a Board Member. She also welcomed and congratulated Chair Block and looks forward to working with him.

Chief AO ALJ Rose reported that Appellate Operations is making all of its timeliness numbers. AO saw in November a definite drop in registrations, down from 1,000 in October to 824. Dispositions also dropped a bit and the open case balance is down to 900 from an average of about 1,200. The open case numbers for December are moving up and there is now a balance of approximately 1,000 cases.

Chief AO ALJ Rose reported that Appellate Operations is working hard on finishing up a new precedent decision that is agendaized later in the day for discussion in Closed Session.

Chief AO ALJ Rose reported that an AO ALJ training meeting is planned for January.

Chief AO ALJ Rose added that she has put together a summary for Member Corbett of recent precedent decisions and issues for future consideration. She is also working on a flowchart for the precedent decision process. She is hopeful the Precedent Decision Committee will be able to meet again soon.

**8. Chief Information Officer, Nick Dressler Report:**

CIO Dressler also welcomed Chair Block to the Board. He also thanked former Chair Dresser for his support of the IT Division.

CIO Dressler reported that the IT Division finished the last phone system upgrade for the Oakland/San Francisco Office at the end of November. That was the last of four offices that were upgraded this year. Now CUIAB has stable phone systems throughout the state and spare parts for the offices that were not upgraded.

CIO Dressler reported that they will be implementing over the next few weeks a new port security system that will give the IT Division a better handle on intrusions into the CUIAB network.

CIO Dressler reported that the IT Division is working on posting biographical information about the new Chair on CUIAB's public website.

Member Allen asked about the status of upgrades to the hearing recording system.

CIO Dressler responded that a proposed contract relating to the upgrades has been tied up at EDD for quite some time. He's hoping right after the first of the year the IT Division will get the contract released and out to bid.

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

Chief Silva welcomed Chair Block and thanked former Chair Dresser for all his support of the Administrative Services Division over the past several years.

Chief Silva reported that the Administrative Services Division initiated a lease renewal project for the hearing room facility in Chatsworth which is shared by the Pasadena and Oxnard Offices of Appeals. He indicated that it should be a routine lease renewal that will result in substantially reduced costs.

Chief Silva reported that his Division finalized a two-year lease extension for the Santa Maria facility, which is a one-room facility.

Chief Silva reported that Doug Mattes, facilities analyst, will be going to the Orange County Office of Appeals next week to do a final tenant walk through to check on improvements that were negotiated in the lease renewal that started at the beginning of the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Chief Silva reported that all CUIAB employees that receive bilingual pay have been participating in a bi-annual audit.

Chief Silva reported that Admin Services is working on an extension of the contract for telephonic interpreters, noting that there has been a decrease in the use of these types of services, and an increase in the use of in-person interpreters.

Chief Silva reported that CUIAB is currently recruiting for two positions in the IT Division with a final filing date of December 15, 2016.

Member Corbett asked if all CUIAB facilities meet ADA requirements.

Chief Silva responded that they do. He noted that the Department of General Services controls all state leased facilities and requires that all of the facilities are ADA compliant.

Member Corbett noted that she is very glad to hear that greater use is being made of in-person interpreters because sometimes there is significant difficulty hearing a translation over the telephone. She thinks in-person interpreters produce a better hearing record.

Member Dresser commented that he would be remiss if he did not thank K. Stephen Swenson, Presiding Judge, for all his help, especially the tax training that he conducted.

Chair Block asked if CUIAB had ASL translators.

Chief Silva responded that CUIAB does and that there are assisted listening devices that are shared by the Field Offices.

**Closed Session:**

The Board adjourned Open Session at 11:03 a.m. The Board commenced a Closed Session at 11:06 a.m. Closed Session was adjourned at approximately 11:43 a.m.

**Open Session:**

The Board reconvened in Open Session at approximately 11:44 a.m. Chair Block reported that no votes were taken in Closed Session and that there was nothing further to report.

Chair Block adjourned Open Session at 11:45 a.m.