

**MINUTES  
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD  
Docket No. 5677**

**Open Session**

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 1:00 p.m., May 18, 2022, via Zoom conferencing with Chair Marty Block presiding.

<b>1. Roll Call: <u>Members</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
Marty Block, Chair	X	
Dan Reeves, Vice-Chair	X	
Mike Eng	X	
Michael Allen	X	
Laura Kent-Monning	X	

**2. Approval of the Minutes:**

The April 27, 2022, Meeting Minutes will be voted on at the June 7, 2022, Board Meeting.

**3. Chair's Report:**

Chair Block also reminded that most of the Board's work is not done during the meetings, but in-between meetings. Since the last board meeting, the Board resolved approximately 500 second-level appeals, and Field Office Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) resolved thousands of first-level appeals. Chair Block thanked the ALJs, field office staff and the Board for their work.

**4. Board Member Reports:**

Member Eng thanked PJ Wayland for accommodating him in the Pasadena Office of Appeals.

Member Allen thanked the CUIAB staff for their work during this extremely busy time.

Member Kent-Monning thanked Acting PALJ Hannah of the Bay Area Office of Appeals for accommodating her and the IT staff for facilitating the meeting.

## **5. Public Comment**

Richard Miller commented on his efforts to obtain employment with CUIAB.

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

During April, CUIAB closed 1.6% of cases within 30 days and 2.9% of cases within 45 days. The average case age was 91 days. Appeal timeliness is a nationwide problem and nationwide the average case age was last reported as 170 days.

In April, the field offices resolved over 26,000 cases. CUIAB continues to meet with EDD monthly to evaluate workload trends.

Since the last Board meeting, there were three office closures due to COVID. The offices were cleaned and re-opened with no hearings missed.

The State's weekly testing requirements for unvaccinated state employees are ongoing.

Executive Director Cutri thanked Chief Silva and his team for their continuous work administering the State's COVID protocols.

CUIAB continues to recruit ALJs and support staff. The 11<sup>th</sup> cohort of ALJs has joined their respective field offices.

There were no security incidents to report.

Executive Director Cutri advised the Fresno Office of Appeals will be conducting its first hearing through CUIAB's California Appeals Modernization System (CAMS) today.

Vice-Chair Reeves asked about the current unemployment insurance trendlines. Executive Director Cutri advised that CUIAB's current caseload reflects EDD's processing of deferred workload since the onset of the pandemic. Vice-Chair Reeves asked about EDD's anticipated date for completing backlogged cases. Chief Cutri advised that EDD projects resolving its backlog by the end of 2022.

Member Eng asked about the number of office closures due to positive COVID cases, safety protocols, and ALJ vacancies. Chief Cutri confirmed there were three office closures since the last Board meeting and that CUIAB complies with local and

state safety protocols following office cleanings. CUIAB has completed a recruitment for ALJ Is and will begin a recruitment for ALJ IIs. Member Eng inquired about ongoing cases with audio recording deficiencies. Chief Cutri advised that recent incidents were isolated involving hardware issues and have been resolved.

**7. Presiding ALJ of Appellate Operations, Jodi Remke Report:**

Presiding Administrative Law Judge for Appellate Operations, Jodi Remke, reported that during April, AO resolved 12.8% of its cases within 45 days and 95.9% within 75 days. California continues to perform above the national average every month.

Member Eng thanked PJ Remke for her assistance on cases and inquired about the CUIAB's ability to meet the 45-day timelapse standard. PJ Remke advised that Appellate Operations is working through a backlog and resolving oldest cases first. Chair Block emphasized that the priority is to issue correct decisions.

Member Allen offered his support in hiring additional ALJs.

Member Kent-Monning inquired about the processes for evaluating staffing and workload. PJ Remke advised that she discusses this with Chief Cutri and anticipates that with adjustments, AO will be able to ultimately meet DOL's 45-day timelapse standard.

**8. Chief Information Officer, Jeff Willoughby Report:**

Chief Willoughby reported that CUIAB has verified their first set of appeal documents, calendared and heard the first hearing, and issued the first decision through CAMS. Chief Willoughby thanked the staff, subject-matter experts, trainers, and PJ Hugh Harrison for their work implementing CAMS. Work on CAMS continues to address issues that arise and improve training.

Chief Willoughby reported that the online check-in process continues to see consistent use; as of May 17, 2022, approximately 15,000 appellants have used the online check-in process.

Chief Willoughby advised that the electronic document exchange process between EDD and CUIAB is working well. Twenty-five thousand documents have been electronically transmitted to CUIAB.

Vice-Chair Reeves thanked Chief Willoughby and the Fresno Office of Appeals for

its work piloting CAMS.

Member Eng thanked Chief Willoughby and the IT staff for his work on this project.

Member Allen thanked Chief Willoughby and his staff for their work.

Member Kent-Monning thanked all those who were involved in implementing CAMS. Member Kent-Monning inquired about the ability to track the quantity of paper saved as a result of CAMS. Chief Willoughby advised that they can track this.

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

Chief Silva reported that CUIAB continues to hire support staff; currently, there are six new hires and 19 pending hires.

Chief Silva advised that based on UI workload projections, EDD will not be submitting a Budget Change Proposal (BCP) for the Spring Revise of the Governor's Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget. EDD projects a higher CUIAB workload than previously projected and will therefore make an internal budgetary adjustment to account for this increase.

May is employee Performance Evaluation month. Chief Silva advised that the evaluations are due by May 31, 2022.

Chief Silva reported on CUIAB procurements and updated COVID protocols.

Chief Silva reported 18 positive COVID cases since the last Board meeting, which resulted in three partial day office closures.

Vice-Chair Reeves inquired about the budgetary relationship between EDD and CUIAB and emphasized the need for collaboration between CUIAB and EDD regarding CUIAB's budget. Chief Silva explained that EDD submits the BCPs for both CUIAB and EDD. CUIAB and EDD had met and discussed CUIAB's workload projections and EDD's administrative transfer is anticipated to be sufficient to address CUIAB's increased projected workload.

Member Eng requested clarification on return-to-work protocols after a fully vaccinated employee has tested positive. Chief Silva provided clarification on this.

Member Allen commented on the need for CUIAB to have control over its budget.

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Chair Block confirmed the importance of this.

Member Kent-Monning thanked Chief Silva for his report and ongoing work implementing the COVID safety protocols.

**Closed Session:**

There was no Closed Session.

**Adjournment**