

**MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
CALIFORNIA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BOARD
Docket No. 5679**

Open Session

The Appeals Board meeting convened at 1:00 p.m., July 20, 2022, via Zoom conferencing with Chair Marty Block presiding.

1. Roll Call: <u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
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 June 7, 2022, Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Chair's Report:

Chair Block advised that most of the Board's work is not done during the meetings, but in-between meetings. Since the last meeting, the Board resolved 1,603 second-level appeals, and Field Office Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) resolved thousands of first-level appeals.

Chair Block requested to reschedule the currently scheduled November 16, 2022 Board Meeting to November 9, 2022, or other possible dates.

4. Board Member Reports:

Vice-Chair Reeves thanked PJ Rebecca Bach for conducting CAMS training for him and Member Allen.

Member Eng expressed his appreciation for the Board's efficiency in performing its work.

Member Allen thanked the CUIAB staff for their work and expressed his support for the ongoing implementation of CAMS.

Member Kent-Monning expressed her gratitude to the field and appellate operations for their work, and to PJ Bach for her ongoing work conducting trainings.

5. Public Comment

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

6. Chief ALJ/Executive Director Report:

In June, CUIAB closed 1.6% of cases within 30 days and 2.8% of cases within 45 days. The average case age was 94.5 days. Appeal timeliness is a nationwide problem and nationwide the average case age is 167 days.

In June, the field offices resolved over 27,000 appeals. CUIAB continues to meet with EDD monthly to evaluate workload trends.

Since the last Board meeting, there were four office closures due to COVID. The offices were cleaned and re-opened with few hearings impacted. Chief Silva and his team continue to work administering the State's COVID protocols.

Recruitment for ALJs has been temporarily placed on hold due to the State's work concerning the reclassification of the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) position. Upon release of the new ALJ exam, CUIAB will resume recruitment. The 12th cohort of ALJ hires will begin training in August.

The Oxnard Field Office has completed its CAMS training. Director Cutri thanked Assistant Chief Hugh Harrison and Renee Erwin for their continuous work conducting CAMS trainings.

Vice-Chair Reeves inquired about the timeline for the State Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget. Director Cutri advised that the budget will be provided to the Board at the August Board meeting.

Member Eng inquired whether the ALJ reclassification and examination revision impacted support staff. Director Cutri advised that the statewide ALJ reclassification does not impact support staff recruitment.

Member Allen asked whether CUIAB is continuing to receive a large volume of new

cases. Director Cutri advised that CUIAB is receiving approximately 50% higher numbers of appeals compared to pre-pandemic appeal transmittals. However, this is significantly less than appeal transmittals at their initial peak, and the transmittal volume has normalized for the time being.

Member Kent-Monning inquired about communication between EDD and CUIAB to coordinate workload. Director Cutri stated that while EDD and CUIAB previously regularly met to discuss workload, communication on workload trends has increased since the beginning of the pandemic.

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

Presiding Administrative Law Judge for Appellate Operations, Jodi Remke, reported that during June, AO resolved 26.8% of cases within 45 days and 97.1% within 75 days. AO is augmenting its capacity to resolve appeals with five field ALJs and two retired annuitants.

Vice-Chair Reeves inquired about the five field ALJs. PJ Remke advised that three had previously worked in AO and two are completing AO cross-training.

Member Eng asked about the timing in which Board members receive cases for disposition. PJ Remke advised that AO continues to work on improving efficiency in preparing cases for members' dispositions. Member Eng commended PJ Remke and PJ Bach for their training which has led to improvements in the quality of AO decisions.

Members Allen and Kent-Monning thanked PJ Remke, PJ Bach, and the AO ALJs for their work.

8. Chief Information Officer, Jeff Willoughby Report:

Chief Willoughby reported that CAMS vendor has completed their contracted assignment, and CUIAB is therefore fully managing the project.

The Fresno Office of Appeals continues to hear cases through CAMS and we are now in the process of launching CAMS in the Oxnard Office of Appeals.

Appellate Operations and Board Members have received training on CAMS. Chief Willoughby expressed his appreciation to the subject-matter experts, IT, and all those involved with the implementation of CAMS.

Member Eng expressed his excitement about the ongoing implementation of CAMS.

Member Kent-Monning congratulated Chief Willoughby and his staff for achieving this milestone implementing CAMS.

9. Chief Administrative Services, Robert Silva Report:

Chief Silva reported there have been 11 recruitments for support staff since the June Board Meeting and discussed the status of the new hires.

Chief Silva confirmed that CUIAB's support staff classifications have not been impacted by the State's ALJ reclassification and advised that the revised ALJ examination is anticipated to be released in July.

Regarding staff retention, Chief Silva reported that based on a recent report from FY 2021/2022, CUIAB is not experiencing an increase in staff separation and CUIAB's overall retention rate was 88%, matching CUIAB's retention level over the past several years.

Since the June Board meeting, there were 36 reported positive COVID cases, resulting in one partial day and three full-day office closures.

Chief Silva advised he will be presenting the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget proposal at the August Board meeting.

Vice-Chair Reeves asked about the processes and timing regarding economic assessment for Fiscal Year 2022/2023. CUIAB will meet with the EDD Program Estimates Group in August to discuss the upcoming economic forecast to plan for the State's October budget revise.

Member Eng requested clarification on office closures and CUIAB's sanitation supplies available for use in the office. Chief Silva confirmed there have been four office closures since the June Board meeting, advised that sanitation supplies are available in each office, and discussed the process for sanitizing offices following positive COVID case reports.

Member Allen requested a copy of the recent retention report. Member Allen also inquired about the ALJ reclassification changes. Chief Silva will provide a copy of the report to the Board Members and discussed the ALJ reclassification changes.

Docket No. 5679
July 20, 2022

Member Kent-Monning asked whether the ALJ reclassification impacts current ALJs as well as prospective hires. Chief Silva advised the reclassification applies to both CUIAB's current ALJs as well as new hires.

Closed Session:

There was no Closed Session.

Adjournment