

Member Allen commented that he appreciates the opportunity to work with the Budgetary Committee. It's sobering work and he thinks it is really important that the entire staff of the agency know how much is going into looking at the budget, looking at ways of saving jobs or finding ways where people can end up working at other agencies and trying to do whatever is possible with the financial situation. Member Allen reported he has been working with Chief ALJ/AO Rose and he asked her to do a flow chart to describe what's written in terms of the proposed new Precedent Process. He thinks the visual is a helpful exercise to help improve the process.

Member Ashburn acknowledged Chair Dresser's report and the effort to which he and senior staff are going to work with the judges and with other staff with respect to CUIAB's budget realities and the changes that must occur. The sensitivity and the effort is appreciated he's sure and even though it is difficult he wanted to acknowledge and thank the Chair for his efforts, the Chief ALJ and others who have been involved.

Member Adkisson agreed with Member Ashburn's comments and added that the effort to mitigate the impact of the reduction is the number one priority and he appreciates the focus of the Chair and staff on this problem. Secondly, he'd like to thank the Chair as well as the Counsel Steinhardt and Chief Rose for working with him on the issue he brought up at last month's meeting regarding what he regards as a need to update and review many of our precedents.

6. Public Comment:

No public comment.

7. Chief ALJ/Executive Director Report:

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Gonzales reported that in terms of the workload, the open balance was 37,000 plus cases. The projections are that CUIAB is still going to see declining caseload. As the Chair mentioned they are making the numbers of the Department of Labor standards with a comfortable margin at this time.

Chair Dresser added that Chief Gonzales is organizing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding the reduction in force and has received a couple of written reports asking questions from two of the field offices plus a lot of verbal questions. They are gathering those questions and her team is preparing additional information for the website.

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Gonzales stated that the FAQs are on the Bench under Workforce Planning. They should have more information being posted on an ongoing basis, but the website is already up and they are sending announcements of job openings to all impacted employees.

Chair Dresser commented that today he and Chief Gonzales are meeting with the Appellate Operations at 1:30 p.m. and then the Sacramento Office of Appeals and they are going to continue to meet tomorrow with Oakland and Thursday with San Jose and San Francisco Offices of Appeals. Fresno will be visited in about a week to week and a half.

8. Chief ALJ of Appellate Operations, Elise Rose Report:

Chief ALJ of Appellate Operations Rose reported that AO is still making all of its time standards. She referred to the All Programs Trends AO report which shows the change in workload from 2011 to 2014. The registrations this month were 1,959 and a year ago they were 3,400 a significant drop.

Chief ALJ-AO Rose reported that they have been working on the precedent process. She put together a most recent draft dated 5/9 and circulated that to the board members along with a flow chart.

Chief ALJ-AO Rose reported that they are working on improving E-File to streamline the deliberative process.

Chief ALJ-AO Rose reported that Michael Francis, SSA, has accepted a job at the Secretary of State's Office, a promotion for him and his last day will be on the 21st of this month. She reported that he will be missed.

Chair Dresser stated he appreciated her devoting time to making the precedent process work better. He also thanked Vice Chair Allen for his work on the process. He also mentioned that Mariluz Worden does a very good job for the board members and they appreciate that. He also thanked Mary Werner for her good work.

9. Chief Information Officer, Rafael Placencia Report:

Lori Kurosaka made the report on behalf of CIO Placencia. She thanked the entire IT Branch for completing a new online User Authorization Form. This is a standard web based form the presiding judges, supervisors and attendance clerks use to

initiate any employee transactions such as adding or separating employees or moving desks around. She stated that they would also like to thank Application Development Office in IT. They released an enhancement to eCATS last week that resolved a small bug in the Appeals Board process and calculations. Ms. Kurosaka also highlighted that a number of IT staff have volunteered to serve on a task force auditing software and hardware, and email boxes to help decommission unused equipment and email boxes to save money. Lastly, the managers and staff are developing some IT policies and procedures that will also help with efficiencies within IT Branch and help with staff cross training procedures as well.

Member Allen commented that a few months ago there were some questions about IT disaster planning and whether we were going to be funding that or not; or not doing that. He asked if there has been any recommendation coming forward.

Ms. Kurosaka responded that the managers are working on a Disaster Policy and Plan. At this point they are scheduled to complete it within about three weeks and they will have it reviewed by the Executive Director and forwarded for the board's review as well.

10. Chief Administrative Services, Robert Silva Report:

No report by Mr. Silva.

Chief ALJ/Executive Director Gonzales stated that they are on target for the numbers for the budget ending this fiscal year and they have started the meetings for the Budget Advisory Committee to make sure that we are going to meet the budget for next fiscal year.

Chair Dresser commented that the budget, including the surplus plan currently under way, is the Board's plan, and even though it poses hardship, he wanted to be clear that these are the Board's policies and decisions, not executive management's.

11. Chief Counsel's Report:

Chief Counsel Steinhardt reported that the six cases closed last month were all board affirmations.

Member Adkisson asked what the typical time frame was from the time the board issues a precedent or a decision that gets challenged to the time that an initial superior court writ is issued either affirming or not. Chief Counsel Steinhardt

responded that it is not likely to happen within six months, although it can. It is usually closer to a year than a couple of months. He added, in response to Member Adkisson's request, that he would provide copies of all writs issued, even to Board members who were not on the panel, whether or not the Board was affirmed or reversed.

12. Unfinished and New Business:

No unfinished or new business.

13. Closed Session:

The Board went into closed session. No votes were reported.

Adjournment