

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Honorable Emergency Services District Board of Commissioners

THROUGH: Jason E. Brown, County Administrator

FROM: Tad Stone, Director
Department of Emergency Services

DATE: December 12, 2019

SUBJECT: Approval of Public Emergency Medical Transportation Letter of Agreement between Indian River County Emergency Services District and the Agency for Health Care Administration.

It is respectfully requested that the information contained herein be given formal consideration by the Emergency Services District Board of Commissioners at the next regular scheduled meeting.

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS:

Staff seeks consideration of a Letter of Agreement with the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) for the receipt of Public Emergency Medical Transportation (PEMT) payments to the County for this year.

AHCA has significantly changed the process to receive the PEMT payments to providers over prior years. The new process now requires an upfront payment from the County of \$146,342.14 in order to receive the PEMT payment. This payment from the County to AHCA as well as all of the statewide provider's payments will be bundled as a funding mechanism to apply for federal grants.

It is anticipated that the funds provided to AHCA (\$146,342.14) will be returned to the County as well as the annual PEMT funds estimated to be \$85,744 with a total return to the County of \$232,086.14.

There are several concerns associated with the agreement and they are as follows:

- The attached agreement with AHCA for the future payment of PEMT is unilateral and not subject to any changes, additions or deletions.
- The agreement does not fully cover or explain the return of the \$146,342.14 to the County. The County Attorney has had conversations with AHCA regarding these issues but they are hesitant to put any of their responses in writing. (See attached email from County Attorney Dylan Reingold to Kristen Johnson, AHCA)
- If the County does not enter into this letter of agreement, the annual PEMT funding will be withheld and there will be a loss of revenue to the District of \$85,744.

- We are expecting a new document from AHCA that will change only the date to sometime in mid-January because of their failure to distribute the documents in a timely manner.
- This appears to be a trust issue between AHCA and all service providers in the State that all of the funds will be returned to all of the agencies as well as the annual PEMT payments. The attached agreement does not spell out the return of the funds requested and does not follow the staff conversations with AHCA.

FUNDING:

Funding for this agreement will be derived via budget amendment in the amount of \$146,343 from Emergency Services District/Cash Forward Oct 1st. When payment is returned to the County, the funds will be deposited back into the Emergency Services District.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends, with the concerns listed above, the approval and execution of the Letter of Agreement between the Indian River County Emergency Services District and the Agency for Health Care Administration.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Public Emergency Medical Transportation Letter of Agreement
2. Email dated December 3, 2019 between Dylan Reingold and Kristen Johnson
3. Florida Statute 409.908