THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT IS OVER 100 PAGES. A COPY OF THE DETAIL LISTING OF UNCOLLECTIBLE ACCOUNTS HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO MINUTES.

Agenda Item #: **3S2**

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Meeting Date:	September 14, 2021	[X] Consent [] Workshop	[] Regular [] Public Hearing
Department:	Fire-Rescue		

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Motion and Title: Staff recommends motion to approve: the write-off of uncollectible emergency transport patient accounts to remove these amounts from the County's general ledger for the following period:

October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017 (FY 2017) \$13,656,723.07

Summary: In December 1994, the Board authorized Fire Rescue to transport critically ill/injured patients and bill for those services. The County contracts with a private company for these billings and collections services. The County receives payment from a number of sources, including commercial insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, and private individuals. During the period October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017, Fire Rescue generated \$53,301,117.26 in gross transport billings and collected (to-date) \$25,270,279.38. After adjustments of \$14,374,114.81, required under the guidelines of the Medicare/Medicaid programs, the balance of \$13,656,723.07 is currently deemed to be uncollectible. This balance is primarily due to partial payments, insurance denial based on medical necessity, the inability to obtain accurate patient and/or insurance information, and patients without medical coverage or high deductibles. Staff recommends the amount deemed uncollectible be written-off the County's general ledger. Countywide (SB)

Background and Justification: In March 1995, Fire-Rescue began transporting patients and charging ambulance fees for this service. Fire Rescue's billing efforts are designed to meet the federal requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. The law requires that the County make reasonable attempts to collect monies from all patients regardless of the availability of insurance, to the maximum allowed under Federal and State guidelines and does not allow for the routine waiver of unpaid co-payments or deductibles, unless certain requirements are met. Based on these efforts, Fire Rescue collected 64% of net charges to-date for this write-off period.

(continued on Page 3)

Attachments:

- 1. Emergency Transport Billing Write-Off Summary for Period October 2016 September 2017
- 2. Detail Listing of Uncollectible Accounts by Transport Month for Period October 2016 - September 2017

Recommended by:	(Int x Kan)	8/25/21
· · ·	Assistant Eire Chief	Date ,
Approved by:	ANA	8/25/21
	Fire Rescue Administrator	/ Date /
Approved by:	Mbaker	9/8/91
	County Administrator	Djate / ^{(*}

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Fiscal Years	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025			
Capital Expenditures								
Operating Costs								
External Revenues	- 							
Program Income (County)			<u></u>					
In-Kind Match (County)					. <u></u>			
NET FISCAL IMPACT								
# ADDITIONAL FTE								
POSITIONS (Cumulative)					<u> </u>			
Is Item Included in Current Budget? Yes_X_No Does this item include the use of federal funds Yes No _X								

Budget Account No.: Fund 1300 Dept 440 Unit 4210 Rev Source 4260

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item. The approval of this item will authorize the Clerk of the Courts to record the necessary accounting entries to remove these accounts from the financial records. As required under PPM CW-F-048, Fire Rescue will continue to maintain a database of all emergency transport accounts.

C. **Departmental Fiscal Review**

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Development and Control Comments:

Contract Development and Contro

Legal Sufficiency Β.

stant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director

REVISED 9/03 ADM FORM 01 (THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT.)

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The \$13,656,723.07 is the outstanding balance after adjustments are applied to patient accounts. Primarily, adjustments are the difference between the Fire-Rescue billing rate and the maximum reimbursement allowed by Medicare and Medicaid. The County's rate is set higher than Medicare's maximum allowable in order to collect the maximum reimbursement, thereby creating an automatic Medicare adjustment. An increase in adjustments will occur whenever the Board approves a rate increase in excess of Medicare allowable rates for reimbursement.

The following provides some examples as to why the \$13,656,723.07 is uncollectible:

- Partial Payment received payment from third party carrier, but patient did not have supplemental insurance and has not paid balance.
- Payment denied based on medical necessity Fire Rescue's decision to transport an injured or ill patient is based on quality of patient care as determined by the paramedic/Medical Director, not on the likelihood of a successful collection. In some cases, patient did not pay account.
- Billing agent unable to obtain accurate/sufficient patient information.
- Patients had no insurance, co-insurance, or had not met their deductible.