

DATA SHARING CONSORTIUM MEETING

September 15, 2015

Hosted by Osceola County Sheriff's Office

- **Call to Order/ Welcome and Introductions**
 - Jim McClure called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
 - Attendees introduced themselves.
 - Attendees were announced that were joining by web conference.

- **FINDER Updates/Enhancements**
 - Palm Beach County LEX has an open source algorithm that they use with FINDER that is a one line “Google type” search on all indexed data. We are exploring creating a single query box in a future FINDER release that would search all indexed data fields in all records.
 - In a future version release, you will be able to drill down in a multi-agency node and select one or more agencies independently (eg. check just one agency under Seminole County instead of searching all agencies in that node). You will still have the option of checking the whole county.

- **PawnWeb Updates**
 - Cash America and Value Pawn shops are reporting directly in several counties now. They continue to have sporadic problems, but the uploads are working well for the most part. It appears they don't upload on weekends, so there can be a 3 to 4 day delay in seeing Friday tickets in FINDER.
 - Jim explained to the group how much time we often have to spend troubleshooting pawn software issues that we know are NOT problems with PawnWeb. We would rather be developing new features than solving other people's problems, but it is important to our member agencies that pawn data be complete, accurate, and current, so we help them as much as possible.

- **Local Firearms Update**
 - We are working on getting the local firearms query up and running for each agency that utilizes PawnWeb. We cannot do this with a global modification – each agency server has to be modified individually. Four agencies have been completed to date.

- **General**
 - Broward Sheriff's Office and Glade County Sheriff's Office have signed MOU's and are in the process of getting connected to FINDER. There have been discussions with municipalities in Broward and we would expect most of them to follow Broward's lead and join FINDER in the future.
 - LETTR was invited to negotiate with FDLE for the contract to provide the data sharing system for Regions 2, 6 and 7 (replacing CopLink). FINDER was the lowest cost option and had excellent customer satisfaction ratings, but the contract was awarded to Northrop Grumman (LInX). Our mission has always been to help

catch bad guys and we are prepared to assist Northrop Grumman with getting agencies connected as quickly as possible. Their contract starts on October 1, 2015, and is to be completed in one year. Now that CopLink is being replaced, the next big push will be to adopt a statewide data sharing solution. A hybrid solution will be needed to provide backup and storage as well as maintain a local data pool (including pawn) and provide strong analytical tools.

- Business Watch International approached us at the IACP meeting in Orlando and asked us to consider collaborating with them to try to eliminate some of the “islands” of information that are created by having disparate pawn systems at various agencies. Since it is advantageous to investigators to fill in the data gaps between neighboring jurisdictions, we will be working with BWI to provide reciprocal sharing of pawn data for the benefit of the agencies we serve.

▪ **Next Meeting & Additional Notes**

- Memoranda of Understanding for the 2015-2016 fiscal year are being prepared and should go out shortly. Attendees were asked to be sure they provide current contact information on the front page of the MOU.
- Everyone at LETTR now sends digitally signed emails. We can also send and receive encrypted emails. All law enforcement personnel should probably use encryption for external communications, and we suspect this may be required in the future so we are getting ahead of the curve.
- Mike McKinley, formerly with Orange County Sheriff’s Office and an early member of the FINDER team, was sworn in last week as Chief of Police for Apopka.
- Jim reminded attendees to be diligent about protecting themselves and their families. The Florida Statutes contain provisions for protecting LEOs and their families’ personal information from disclosure including social security, work information, school records, property records, etc. In today’s hostile environment, it is more important than ever to keep your guard up and take every precaution to keep you and your family safe.
- Several members in attendance expressed gratitude and appreciation to the LETTR team and expressed strong support for the FINDER system.
- Lauren Sykes, long time trainer extraordinaire at the Fusion Center, has left that position to Chair the Criminal Justice Technology program at Valencia College.
- The next Consortium meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 8, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at a location to be determined. Elections for the Florida Law Enforcement Data Sharing Consortium officers will be held at this meeting, and a networking reception will follow.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.