

iREMS Data Sharing Working Group Meeting Meeting Minutes – 11/20/2008

Attendees

- Wes McAfee, ATS Corporation
- Alisa Costello, ATS Corporation
- Lynsay Matthews, ATS Corporation
- Bill Heenan, ATS Corporation
- Ann Gass, Southwest Housing Compliance Corporation
- Jed Graef, IPM-Software
- Jeffery K. Wirrick, Georgia HAP Administrators, Inc.
- Bob Schneider, Georgia HAP Administrators, Inc.
- Terrell Graham, HDS Software
- Colleen Bloom, American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
- John Curry, MF Housing
- Juan Seneca, MF Housing
- Eileen Walker, MF Housing
- Naseem Saab, MF Housing
- Magaly Méndez, San Juan Field Office

Background

What is the *iREMS Data Sharing Working Group*? Multifamily Housing (MFH) is establishing a working group to support as well as map out future requirements for sharing data files between the PBCA organizations and HUD's Integrated Real Estate Management System (iREMS).

What does MF Housing currently have in-place for iREMS Data Sharing? Currently, we create an XML file with some basic property information and make this single file available for download.

What are the goals of the *iREMS Data Sharing Working Group*? Our vision is to expand on the current capabilities for data sharing between HUD and its partners.

How can MFH help? Requests that we have received and ideas that we have discussed:

- a. Transfer to include more elements
- b. Transactional System-to-System data transfer
- c. Expand current file extract or create additional files to share additional business data
- d. Create a new search engine, to control / filter the contents of the file extract
- e. Direct access to iREMS standard reports while restricting the data to PBCA's portfolio
- f. Expand this concept further by providing an XML template allowing organizations to create data files (via automation) and upload them into the iREMS database

Items of Discussion

Summary review of the Survey answers, to determine highlights of priorities. Some of the survey answers were already summarized in the presentation at the TRACS Conference. There were no questions regarding the presentation and the survey answers.

Priorities of members of the Working Group.

- a. One of the priorities discussed is to have participants see and update their own data. However, this seems to be a low priority to most after a vote was taken.
- b. The highest priority is to be able to validate data between iREMS and PBCA data. The need is to validate both iREMS data as the master data and PBCA data that needs to be entered/uploaded to iREMS. PBCAs need to enter data into their system and only enter it once, so they need to be able to upload it automatically into iREMS. Some PBCAs do not have web based system, so perhaps nightly or weekly upload/downloads of data to databases. This seems to be more of a priority with most PBCAs.

It was mentioned that by January 2009, there is a requirement to have Web Services software to deal with TRACS, so the users will soon have access to that technology, if they don't already have it. It was mentioned that you can use Web Services to push to iREMS technically. One of the problems with this push/approach is what pieces of data to push? Also, who owns the data? If PBCA updates data 'A' then what if PM updates data 'A' as well? Need to inform PBCA? Or how to deal with this? Should the data be locked down once PBCA updates? Wes McAfee mentioned that this is the same now in the system that both the PBCA and Housing can update the same data. Should we identify who should be able to update it? It is a given now that if the contract is PBCA administered then they update the data. This concern was acknowledged and indicated that it is dependent on the data and the group of users that might need to further edit engage that. Nevertheless, it was also acknowledged that mostly for PBCA users what they enter and what field offices enter are distinct and there is not much contention there.

c. Another priority that most highlighted, is that they would want to be able to pull reports out of iREMS (existing and new) accessible for PBCA. Format of data becomes an issue – acrobat and ascii are free. Excel has to be paid for as a software by users. It was mentioned that with the November release the technicality of PBCAs having access to Actuate reports is available.

Action Items

- None

Next Meeting

Thursday Dec. 18th (3rd Thursday) **Time:**12:00pm - 1:00pm; **Room:** 5155.

Meeting after Next: Thursday Jan. 15th (3rd Thursday) **Time:**12:00pm - 1:00pm; **Room:** _____.