

Structural Pest Control Advisory Council Subcommittee on Bed Bugs
DuPage County Health Department
December 13, 2010

Members Present:

Curt Colwell
Chris Haggerty
Tony Hernandez
Meron Kahssai
Gary Pietrucha
Judith Roettig
Rachel Rosenberg
Nancy Tikalsky
Barbara O'Meara (taking Minutes)

9:31 am

Curt Colwell opened meeting .

Meeting dates are posted on the IDPH web site and posted outside the meeting place.

Need 5 members for a quorum, which we have today. Curt does not vote unless there is a tie. We are not to discuss substantive information, which means 3 or more members may not discuss subcommittee business. If 2 are discussing subcommittee business that is allowed under meeting rules.

Curt turned over meeting to Chris Haggerty.

Each member introduced themselves and gave a brief statement of their hopes for this subcommittee.

Chris Haggerty with American pest control explained that downstate had not had the influx of bed bugs that has been seen in the Chicago area. Hopes to create a solution that makes a difference and not causing undue hardship on the people. He also hopes we don't need to go to the state to fund this type of activity.

Gary Pietrucha: Pest Control Owner

Protecting the public health of the people of Illinois is the job of pest control and bed bugs certainly fall into this area.

Rachel Rosenberg: Safer Pest Solutions

Looking to reduce the use of pesticides and looking for the least toxic way to deal with bed bugs. Provides outreach services for city of Chicago. Hopes to supply the Environmental Justice side of the bed bug problem. Very concerned about people's exposure to pesticides, and yet people don't understand the effects of pesticides on themselves especially vulnerable populations

Curt Colwell: IDPH

The IDPH has been handling calls coming in from tenants and others. Doing seminars and disseminating materials across the State, and has applied for EPA grant to enable the State to do that. Municipal employees and local health department personnel need to be trained and made aware of the problem with bed bugs.

Ensuring that educational materials get into the right hands, e.g., the tenant in a low-income situation. What do we do with the low-income family that can't afford to hire a PC operator? Try to find organizations that can supply funding for low-income family to obtain mattress covers or bed leg traps. Forming a bed bug list serve for professionals and regulators to find information. No general bed bug law in Illinois that points a finger at who is responsible and who has to deal with it. Perhaps a law could be put in place to hold landlords responsible, and/or requiring notification by the landlords to new tenants that lets them know bed bugs were present.

The Safe & Hygienic Bedding Act : required to inspect bedding products to assure they are pest free before they are sold, to stop the transport of bed bugs. The committee could look into funding for this law.

Judy Roettig: Chicago Apartment Association CAA, affiliate of the National Apartment Association

NAA has already set up a committee to look into the bed bug problem. Education has been the key since 2008 half day sessions, partnering with a pest management company and then bringing in the entomologist or scientist to assist in the dialog. There is an enormous amount of information out there, task forces have been developed in Virginia, Ohio, many states have already set these up. We aren't starting from square one but can look to those who have gone before us.

This is not just a multi housing problem, or a landlord problem; schools, nursing homes, transportation. The key is first and foremost education, and high levels of cooperation. Without that this simply can't be managed. Cost to manage the problem ranged from \$300 to \$1000 per incidence; without cooperation with tenants cost went from \$1200 up to \$1500 including a clover leaf of units. Budgets continue to increase for the management of this problem. There has to be control of what is coming into the buildings. You can't pick up a piece of furniture or a mattress and bring in. Supplied a hand out.

Tony Hernandez: IDA Finance for affordable housing throughout the state.

Finding that no matter what interaction with a development, somewhere the story of bed bugs will come up. Lack of standards out there; management agents don't really understand the bed bug issue and allow fogging or spraying without knowledge of what should happen. Instructed managers must ask if there are bed bugs in a unit. \$300-\$1200 per unit to treat it effectively. You may have 6 or 7 infestations happening at once. Comprehensive educational approach needs to be developed.

Meron Kahssai: Metropolitan tenant association

Housing advocate for tenants rights. Focusing on education right now. Trainings for tenants on both their rights and responsibilities. There is also a lot of abuse with renters. Working on creating guidelines for landlords. Looking for funding. Most companies are already working in the red and don't have the dollars to combat this. Elderly people have issues because they can't move the furniture.

Nancy Tikalsky: Assistant Attorney General

The governor wants us to look into what we can do legally. Education of the public. Landlord tenant laws are driven by local governments. We are trying to figure out what we can do to protect the public.

Question from Curt about developing a statewide law for tenant landlord. Discussion ensued about notification and protocols that could be implemented from tenant standpoint or landlord side:

- Developing a best practice
- New York City best management law
- Consumer protection issues
- Administration hearing rights
- Certification or examination for bed bug license
- Trying to help consumers make good choices
- Make transfer of an infected mattress a legal issue

Jeremy Bergstrom (invited speaker): Prairie State Legal

Dealing with Rockford area housing. PC services are being provided under an existing contract and next year the contract will not include bed bugs, which is going to increase in cost. How can legislation encourage early notification of infestations and thus early intervention for treatment.

Discussion :

Clarifying notification responsibilities; tenant / landlord / management company.

Will this committee expand to look at theatres, public buildings, retail stores?

Source identification, education, push education and how are we going to push out the education.

Make recommendation.....(what the committee is charged with)

Donald Baumgartner (invited speaker): USEPA

EPA's primary purpose is to register pesticides. EPA is trying to accelerate that process but even with that it could be three years. EPA will hold a bed bug summit in Washington DC on February 1 and 2nd in DC. Bed bugs are a regional priority. Money is the real concern. EPA is going to be allotting grants. The more bed bugs are in the news the better. Coordination is really essential, multi-task response better. Everyone has to work together. EPA really concerned with misuse of products.

Foggers: NY City sent a petition concerning foggers, use and abuse, efficacy; if the producers can prove that they kill bed bugs they can still market them. If they can't prove the efficacy then bed bug needs to be removed from the label by Sept of 2011. The NYC petition and response are both available online. EPA does not do actual testing of any products.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Could we disseminate information to the committee members: Judy will distribute her material to all members. Pest Control appendix C of the NY document. Look at the Maine legislation and New Jersey pending and Ohio legislation.

Working groups:

1) **Distribution of Educational** material, who is the target audience. Who are the sub distributors. Mandate education. Exploring the legislation of education. Broad agreement on proper disposal, getting the message out, we need to spend time talking about notification laws. Landlord education of mattress encasement and bed bug detection tools. NYC received \$500,000 and they created a bed bug portal, perhaps IDPH could develop a portal for Illinois. Try to decide how to educate all the local health departments. Making the Bed Bug on the front page of the IDPH website bigger to assist with education. IDPH has applied through USEPA to perform 20 seminars throughout Illinois. Press release. Expanded Bed Bug information on the web site.

2) **Best Practices for the pest control industry**
Chris will look at Appendix C and will add to it as he deems necessary.

3) **Charitable donations of bed bug traps or mattress covers?** Encasement company that might be willing to work with the state of Illinois? Encasements are not all the same, concern over the quality of the encasements. Worth looking into assisting low income populations with cost or product. Curt and Tony will follow up.

4) **Legislative Issues**
a.)enforcement possible with the hotels

Who would be given jurisdiction to investigate a complaint. Normally handled by cities. Shouldn't we invite the hotel industry to a meeting before we begin mandating their actions? This section will be tabled until a representative from the hotel industry can be asked to attend the next subcommittee meeting. Are second hand stores covered by the S & H Bedding law?

b.)enforcement of disposal of infected material
under whose jurisdiction would this fall?
Should we add to the Safe & Hygienic Bedding Act?
Referencing the disposal of infested materials.
Just marking the mattress not sufficient, it must be destroyed to the point of not being able to be reused. Tagged on to the Safe and H Bedding Act, if you chose to throw out your mattress we need to state how you can throw it out. You can remediate the problem and keep the mattress.

c.)landlord tenant issues

Official regulations could clarify rights and responsibility tenants notifying the landlord, and landlords notifying tenants. Judy would put together the information and disseminate that information to the committee prior to the next meeting. Meron will also work on this issue from the tenant's position.

Audience input:

Gary Ross-Orkin Commercial Services

Represents major hotel chains, condos, etc. Communication is the biggest problem out there. We're not getting the cooperation that is needed. Legitimate concerns and non-legitimate concerns, 75% are non-legitimate concerns. Hotels have their own protocols. Proper procedures of what they do with infected materials. Like slicing the mattresses.

Val Jung : Property manager in Streamwood

I found a lot of the people are not educated. Educational materials would be good if in Spanish, to have them in other languages. The tenants didn't read the education materials because they couldn't read it. Posting of comments online can devastate an apartment complex.

Tentative date for the next Subcommittee meeting, February; first or second week. Doodle date was suggested. Location up in this area or again at DuPage CHD for the next meeting.

Adjourned 12:25 pm.