

Structural Pest Control Advisory Council
Subcommittee on Bed Bugs
Kendall County Health Department
March 3, 2011

Members Present:

Curt Colwell
Susan DiGrino
Chris Haggerty
Tony Hernandez
Gary Pietrucha
Judith Roettig
Rachel Rosenberg
Nancy Tikalsky

Not Present:

Meron Kahssai

9:05 am

Curt Colwell opened meeting :

Curt started by introducing Eric Bates and Jennifer Chase from the hotel and lodging industry.

Eric spoke concerning the cleanliness of the hotels and their reputation which is dependent on these issues. He feels that the hotel industry is way ahead of the problem of bed bugs. Hotels have to spend the money to continue to stay ahead of these problems in order to maintain their reputation as an industry.

BED BUG ISSUES

OVERSIGHT and ENFORCEMENT in HOTELS, APARTMENTS, etc?

Does someone need to have authority over hotels?

C Colwell: Hotels seem much better than apartment buildings at policing themselves so do we need to put a regulatory authority to oversee that.

R Rosenberg: Chicago DPH does enter hotels. They do send inspectors in to inspect.

E Bates: Perhaps bedbugs should be put in with and treated as happens now with any pest complaint.

Going back to public education. The problem is the smaller franchise hotel. It may be a large national change but their individual owners are not up to speed and are really the problem.

E Bates was concerned about the "fine."

T Hernandez: Bringing the discussion back to a definition of the bed bugs as a nuisance, what about putting the bed bugs into the existing nuisance statutes?

E Bates: Would like the committee to not use the term "eradication" as they did in Pennsylvania.

R Rosenberg: Could ask the CDPH what they see themselves doing and what the practical realities are of inspecting hotels right now.

E Bates: Questioned the fining with regard to a complaint.

C Colwell: This is not what we are looking at basing fines on. That would be directed more at institutions that are not responding, not remediating correctly.

J Roettig: The need is for public health folks to be trained. What type of training would that be and who would do it?

C Haggerty: Believes the training would really not be an issue and the State and other groups are more than capable of getting the locals trained.

So what would trigger an inspection?

Calls are received and sometimes the State sends a letter notifying the hotel that a complaint was made. But the State has no further enforcement ability at present. Curt would like to be able to refer this to a local inspector who would then go to the facility and speak with the management and if this continues, maybe after 2 or 3 complaints a fining structure would kick in.

Could we start with an education process when you first visit so that the management could then be brought up to speed and aware of what needs to be done. Ask for some sort of documentation that the management has attended bed bug training.

NPMA has just released a best practices sheet which is available.

Is there a requirement for hotel/motel operators to be trained in IPM for bed bugs? At this time there is no requirement for training them.

We need to come to a consensus about whether we are going to make health departments responsible?

C Colwell will write up the details and even run it by the hotel industry rep's and then bring it back next meeting.

HD could inspect hotels and have authority of some type to be determined. Those who feel we should proceed:

Vote: 8 yes, 0 nays

BEST PRACTICES

C Haggerty: Spoke to the idea of “best practices” and what should be put into law. Adopting best pest management practices into law would be a concern because best practices could evolve down the road.

Discussion: As far as regulatory issues, what would we “require” versus what should be suggested. “May” could be inserted and it be left up to the local inspector as to what would be required.

Suggest everyone read through the best practices again and then at the next meeting discuss whatever specific points anyone wants to discuss, or we table our discussion of writing “best practices.”

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE for INFESTATIONS:

Early identification and notification. Back to Education.

Could we agree that: Landlords should be held responsible to procure a Pest Control company?

Could we also agree: Landlords should provide educational material to the renter when they move in?

Discussion concerning tenants and notification; what type of notification and how that notification is handled. Tenant reporting and when they have to report was debated along with non-cooperation and access into the units.

Jeremy Bergstrom: We are not in favor of a penalty for tenants not reporting.

Access needs to be put on an emergency track. Allowing access that day, not down the road ten days.

Tenants need to notify the landlords, eviction should not be dependent on bedbug infestations and once an infestation is identified, treatment must be allowed and if no access is allowed then tenant eviction could be started.

Pamphlet must spell out notification requirements. Is it easy to prove knowledge of an infestation?

We agree that the tenant be required by law to notify the landlord in writing as soon as they have knowledge of bed bugs in the unit.

Educational material would be distributed to new tenants and at lease renewal.

Tenants must allow the timely entry of persons for remediation of bedbugs once an infestation is reported.

BEDDING ACT

Funding needs to be made available to support the Safe and Hygienic Bedding act.

Any commercial seller of second hand mattresses should be educated on the perils of bed bugs. New mattresses can be delivered infested.

Means of disposing of bed bug infested furniture needs to be specified in the Act.

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

Material to be distributed has already been discussed.

Illinois Pest Control Association questionnaire could be given to structural pest control companies to assess the extent of bed bug operations, geographical centers, what is impacting the operators, their concerns.

City of Chicago is putting together their 311 calls on a GIS map.

IPCA with GCPMA will put together a questionnaire, send it to us for approval, and later administer it.

Useful to require local health departments to report to IDPH so bed bugs incidents could be tracked statewide, as basic as how many calls or infestations are found.

SUBSIDIZING BEDBUG CONTROL for LOW/NO-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

Distributors would be willing to do bulk sales. HUD is already looking a purchasing. They a looking at \$70 range for mattress encasements, hopeful of getting it down to \$30. The product is only as good as the installation. They were not willing to sell at cost, but at a bulk discount to the State or its agents.

Grants for bulk purchases could be useful, finding grant money would be the issue. Bulk pricing was also offered from the ClimbUp bed bug trap company.

Larry Hanks of Rose pest control said he had spoken with a few of his vendors and he was willing to be the conduit to bulk pricing for traps or other materials.

Shelters need to be considered and also transitional housing needs to be addressed. They should be part of this process and part of the education disbursement. Best practices for transitional housing and shelters should be developed.

Two inspectors of bed bugs spoke to the issue of dog inspections happening in Illinois. Bed bug dogs may be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

April 14th Structural Pest Control Advisory meeting is being held and there is a suggestion that this next meeting be on the same day.

Adjournment

11:45 am.