

Minutes of the Ohio Bed Bug Workgroup
First meeting: February 1, 2010, 10:00 am – 3:30 pm
Riffe Center, 31st Floor, South B&C, Columbus, Ohio

Participants:

Welcome and Opening Remarks:

Dr. Rich Gary opened the meeting with a welcome to all members and introduced Dr. Alvin Jackson, Director of Health. Dr. Jackson thanked participants for their willingness to be a part of the workgroup, briefly described the growing bed bug problem in Ohio and the United States and ended his remarks by introducing the speakers for the educational session to follow. Dr. Gary then spoke and introduced the DAS facilitators that would help the meeting run smoothly, Steve Wall and Bill Demidovich.

Introductions:

The facilitators, Steve Wall and Bill Demidovich, reviewed the agenda and explained that at the end of the 6-month timeline, a report would be submitted to Governor Strickland that would include short and long-term recommendations from the group and how each recommendation would be achieved.

Short presentations:

A short-presentation session was scheduled to provide an overview of the current bed bug situation ranging from basic biology to the effects on local health departments.

Dr. Rich Gary (ODH) started the session with a presentation on basic bed bug biology.

Dr. Susan Jones (OSU, Central and SW Ohio task forces) presented information on central and SW Ohio task forces activities and findings.

Greg Kesterman (Hamilton Co. H.D.) gave a presentation on the impact of bed bugs on local health departments.

Matt Beal (ODA) gave a presentation on bed bugs and pesticide regulation.

All presentations will be made available in pdf form for all participants.

Comments about presentations:

Stacey Renker, OSU: How many bedbugs equal an infestation? Answer: 1

Stacey Renker: Can you confirm that a medical professional cannot make a diagnosis of bedbugs without the presence of bedbugs? Answer: That is correct. Medical Professionals can suspect based on the locations and appearance of bites, but must confirm presence of bed bugs.

Chris Eddy: Asked Rich if he could describe in more detail the difference between cockroach and bed bug legs. Because, he said, if cockroaches can transmit a pathogen mechanically, then why not bed bugs? Rich answered: Cockroaches transmit pathogens to your food. It has to do with where they walk, like on sewage, garbage, etc. and then onto your food. Bed bugs don't walk on sewage or garbage and then onto your food.

Stacey Renker: Follow up questions about issue of dogs tracking bed bugs

Michael Evans: Asked that we be conscious moving forward about a fear of hotels and be respectful of industries who are participating

Matt Johnson: Local health departments must recognize that bed bugs are a public health issue.

Michael Evans: Be cautious when speaking about specific hotels- they might be blacklisted. Also, there will be resistance from the hotel industry to any mandates put forth because of the likelihood of additional fees. Also indicated we must talk about this and the issue of who has what jurisdiction going forward.

Lonnie Alonso: Time is important. The solution is an effective pesticide. If that doesn't happen, then the problem is not going to go away. Write the EPA and tell them that we need an effective pesticide.

Emerald Hernandez: The Veterans Administration may be a good resource to help veterans with bed bugs.

Afet Kilinc: How much do treatments cost?

Bill Kirchner: 20-30 years ago, about \$25. Now, it's more like \$100 per hour. Preparation for treatment takes time.

Matt Beal: Heat treatments could be \$1000 per unit in apartments. If no residual pesticide is used, then re-infestation is likely. Treating a home would cost more.

Tom Hooper: In Cincinnati, apartment buildings are going into foreclosure, so tenants are moving and making the problem worse.

Matt Beal: Known exposure to propoxur versus all of the unknown exposures to the things people are using.

Stacey Renker: Asked if there is a standard for what to ask potential pest control operators before hiring Pest Control representatives added some commentary and Dr. Camille Jones passed out information they use in Cincinnati

SWOT Analysis:

See attached document with results of small-group work on a SWOT analysis.

Final Comments:

Steve Wall: We must begin with the end in mind. What kind of product do we want to end up with?

We must state what we recommend **and the steps to get there**. Possible recommendations:

- Best practices
- Statewide information sharing
- Roles and responsibilities of State agencies
- Identify funding streams
- Reinstate research that has been abandoned
- It's not enough to say that bed bugs aren't a vector, but why they are not a vector.

Dr. Rich Gary: Through our work in this group, we are not going to provide an answer to the vector question, so we must move forward and talk about bed bugs as a public health issue absent the argument that they are vectors.

Christina Phalen: How do we measure our progress?

Lonnie Alonso: State agencies are incurring costs related to bed bugs. How do we capture this? We don't have 6 months to contact USEPA about the Section 18 exemption request. Must act now.

Group consensus: Individual letters of support will be submitted to USEPA. Each member will use an existing letter that will be edited and personalized before submitting.

Next meeting and action items:

1. Review the SWOT analyses and be thinking about the critical issues identified which will be included in the final report.
2. Bring letters of support to be submitted to USEPA for the Section 18 Emergency Exemption Request for the use of Propoxur.

The next meeting will be held at The State Fire Marshal's office in Reynoldsburg.
February 16th, 2010 from 1-3pm.