

**Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Agricultural Environmental Services
Bureau of Entomology and Pest Control**

Florida Bed Bug Workgroup Meeting

MINUTES

Date: August 22, 2012
Location: 3125 Conner Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS):

1. Mr. Dale Dubberly
2. Mr. Mike Page
3. Mr. Joe Parker

Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA):

1. Mr. Paul Brown
2. Ms. Ann Avery

Department of Health (DOH):

1. Mrs. Sharon Saulter

Department of Business and Professional Regulations- Div. of Hotels (DBPR):

1. Steven Von Bodungen

UF (Entomology and Nematology Department):

1. Dr. Faith Oi
2. Dr. Phil Koehler
3. Mr. Don Whitehead

Pest Control Companies:

1. Louis Witherington (Falcon Termite and Pest Control)

NOT PRESENT:

Mr. Rick Akin	Ms. Kathy Torian	Mr. Jon Hamrick
Mr. John Cooksey	Ms. Cheryl Urbas	Ms. Monique Donahue
Ms. Jennifer Fowler	Mr. Clifford (Chip) Guy	Mr. Scot Haislip
Ms. Laura Heiselman	Mr. Tom Jarzynka	Jennifer Leggett
Mr. Jeff Luebke	Ms. Tanya Peak-Smith	
Mr. Jim Warneke	Mr. Mark Ruff	

ITEM #1 - CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at **10:00am**.

ITEM # 2 - REVIEW OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes were reviewed from the meeting of June 19, 2012 and were approved.

ITEM #3 - OLD BUSINESS:

- **Quarterly meetings-**
 - Mr. Dubberly reviewed the Bed Bug Work plan and Meeting Schedule, and recommended quarterly meetings. It is more efficient for the group since most of the work will now shift toward each sector group for individual document development and we can always schedule additional meetings if a sector group has something ready for the entire group. It would allow some extra time for some of the stake holder groups.

ITEM #4 - NEW BUSINESS:

- **Florida (State-Wide) Bed Bug Website Development Update-**
 - Dr. Faith Oi announced that the new statewide bed bug website is up and running and it will be beneficial not only for the sector groups but the entire user community. The main goal is to provide the community with good information that have credible and research based information with EDIS publications linked there. The Minnesota's web site was used as an example to build ours.
 - Although, the website includes statewide contributions it was not linked to EPA's website. The reason is they recommend the use of foggers and FDACS and this group was not comfortable with that.
- **DOH discussion of emerging Bed Bug issues in Nursing Homes and ALF's –BBWG-**
 - Ms. Avery explained that more likely than not, see the infestations in the assisted living facilities or the adult family care homes She mentioned there are close to 3,000 assisted living facilities in our State and a little over 1,000 are categorized as residents with limited mental health issues. They are a transient population and those types of providers seem to have the highest incidents of bed bugs.

- AHCA has regulations that speak to safe, clean environment and that the residents have the right to live in a safe, clean environment but we don't have regulations specific to infestations of pests. Department of Health doesn't have jurisdiction under their 64-E rule. There have been situation where there are allegations of infestations, and they have to refer them to the local county health units since They don't know how to provide guidance in these situations.
- Ms. Avery suggested that hopefully this website we'll have information embedded in it, that is specific to nursing homes, and assisted living facilities
- Mrs. Saulter stated that DOH doesn't have a website yet, but there's one under development and they are looking for assistance from this workgroup, so DOH a document is developed for how to deal with the bed bug infestation situations.
- Mrs. Saulter inquired UF for assistance with developing a document for DOH that we can be used for the facilities they regulate on programs such as the migrant housing program as well as the residential facilities, and for the assisted living facilities. Mr. Dubberly and Dr. Page agreed to provide assistance with that.
- There was some discussion on the need of creating and using a sector group that includes industry experts in the field to rely on their knowledge. As a result, the Institutional Care Sector was created and they will define their needs and then the work group will work toward directing the resources needed to develop those materials. The work group agreed on creating the group and the members will be Sharon Saulter, Paul Brown, Ann Avery and Robin Eychaner.
- Mr. Page pointed out that the workgroup will need to start developing the recommendations addressing what they're supposed to do for these different sectors and I think that is something that we really need to start thinking about down the road.
- Currently DOH refers bed bug cases to FDACS and FDACS has done several outreach activities among AHCA folks (about 50) in Gainesville.
- Mr. Dubberly and Mrs. Saulter discussed the training aspect and would like to make sure that the people running these facilities know how to handle bed bug situations in these facilities. Besides, the workgroup will compile recommendations for ALFs and institutional care people to provide bed bug infestation guidance for their own facilities. It was discussed that bringing regulators to actually teach them how to look for and identify bed bugs at early stages was a very good idea.
- Mr. Dubberly asked about whether these institutional care facilities have some sort of commercial pest control and if DOH has a category for vector control on their inspection

form.

- Mrs. Eychaner and Mrs. Saulter stated that they inspect for vector control within a facility but on a large facility they only sample a few rooms so it would be easy for them to miss bed bugs if it wasn't widespread.
 - When DOH receives bed bug complaints (the few ones) they refer them to Mrs. Saulter who in turn submits the referral to FDACS. They also refer facilities to the Cornell University link.
 - Bed bug complaints/issues are more common among hotels, motels and transient population locations. Mrs. Saulter said that so far they have not received complaints from migrant housing but that it doesn't mean that they don't have them.
 - Dr. Koehler said that later on in the program he will be talking about a program they have designed for public housing authorities and the way they handle infestations and maybe it's something that can be modified to cover your facility, it's a nationwide program due to some recent HUD policies.
- **Bed Bugs Self-Treatment Fact Sheet Revisions Status Update-**
 - Mr. Dubberly discussed an updated fact sheet how the revised version had been uploaded on to the website.
- **Discussion on New York Bed Bug recommendations-**
 - Since Mr. Guy (from the Rental Industry) wasn't present, he recommended to look into New York's bed bug information and postpone its discussion for later on when Mr. Guy is present and also give a chance for everyone to review the materials and get comments back to me by September 15.
- **Bed Bug Project Reference Documents Status Reports from Reference Document Review Stakeholder Sector Teams**
 - Rental Housing and Retail Industry sectors
No report
 - Tourism Industry & Hotel/Motel Industry (Hospitality) sectors
No report
 - Schools sector
Dr. Oi commented only on the website

- **Approval of documents recommended for inclusion on state-wide website Sector Teams-**
 - None.

- **Requirements for Public Housing Authorities-Koehler-**
 - Dr. Koehler I offered the group an electronic resource – [power point presentation] that can be shared. He stated that for the past year or so bed bug has been a really hot topic and HUD (Department of Housing and Urban Development) has been trying to put on an IPM training program for their facilities.
 - There had been some controversy at two are the current federal facilities on how treatments should be paid for – owners should make advances, pay out of pocket and they may or may not be reimbursed for these treatments . When that was released, several councils wrote letter of objection – the notice would hinder efforts against bed bugs. There was a big mess and a strong lobby group and HUD rescinded the memorandum later on and made changes that were objected by low income housing coalition – because new memo allows owners to charge tenants, evict infected units residents and deny residency if prior issues with bed bugs. This is the memo governing section 8 housing.
 - Private properties are given money from HUD for people to live who have no money. These groups contesting these changes have had no lobbying effectiveness on HUD at all.
 - Now, for Public Housing Administrations, they operate under a different HUD memorandum. Public Housing Authorities (PHA) cannot evict tenants and must accept tenants. Tenants should report, PHA must provide information. Tenants cannot be evicted and tenant should expect inspection with 3 days and treatment’s expected within 5 days – and tenant cannot be charged - tenants will also not be reimbursed for discarded personal effects. Dr. Koehler and his group decided to try to put together an IPM Program for PHA – suggested post notice for residents; and inspection within 24 hours and provided information on prevention and control.
 - Mr. Dubberly asked where the notices are coming from. Dr. Koehler replied that posting sample notices can print off a website and post and they’re coming from their insurance group. Residents will not have to pay for inspection, will not have to move furniture (Housing Authority will do that upon request) and they will not have to find another place to live. That should encourage them to report infestations to avoid ending up with unreported infestations.
 - Dr. Koehler added that the second part, PHA may provide protective tools to

safeguard the property from bed bug intervention- e.g. box spring and mattress encasement and interceptors. There are funds available from housing authority for this purpose.

- PHA can offer inspection, and inspect things BEFORE moving into unit and can treat these items BEFORE moving into unit, but tenants can refuse. If report of bed bug, management arranges for inspection by like a third party (PCO) – one part says “reasonable period of time” and one part says within 3 days. Inspection can be visual, canine, traps, etc. and the inspection can involve surrounding units. – report of findings is developed and residents should be informed on what’s been found, what they’ll have to do to prepare for treatment and then management will arrange for treatments – from first report until treatment, they would have to live with bed bugs for 8 days before they get the initiation of treatment.
- Dr. Koehler was asked if the information given initially could be mitigated with vacuuming, etc. but that’s up to the PHA, but that kind of information could be provided. The next thing is that management will arrange for access – unit and surrounding units should be treated – trying to do a cube concept all sides and up/down – try to maintain a cube of treatment rather than just treating the infested unit.
- Dr. Koehler answer to it was it was sufficient. If they have an infestation, they go ahead and treat all of them in case the treatment causes spreading. And then, the follow up inspections of treatments may take weeks and have the professional determine if their treatments were successful or not and keeping good records for dates and locations of bed bug infestations to indicate patterns such as residents bringing bed bugs back from friends houses.
- This program is in place with the PHA with these notices and it’s the kind of a model that could be used by institutions with some modification – it does not rely on in-house personnel having to learn how to identify and perform treatments – it allows outsourcing of these functions.

Emerging Bed Bug Relevant Topics/Issues/Trends Updates-

- Mr. Dubberly stated that they are continuing to receive complaints about bed bug treatments some of the questions are: how to treat? What is their responsibility as a landlord, or the tenant? The fact that these people had virtually limited economic resources to have professionals come out or even get a real inspection, where could we direct these people to where they could do some kind of treatment on their own? Or maybe we could pull together a road map where a person could to do A, B, C and D on their own.

- Dr. Koehler said one of the things that came up with public housing in Colorado is that a lot of their residents have their beds directly on the floor and those residences had the highest infestations which really caused a whole lot of problems. There should have a recommendation that a person's bed should not be directly on the floor but people don't have money for a bed frame when they don't have money for food.
- **Public Comments**
None
- **Member Comments and Issues**
None
- **Next Steps and Agenda Items for Next Meeting**
Review action items and assignments:
 - Institutional Care sector should meet, organize and develop material and brochure outlines
 - Identify agenda items for first week of December meeting in Tallahassee
 - Identify any needed information and/or background documents
- Dubberly mentioned that we've had a change in the workgroup – Jeff Blair is no longer the moderator due to financial reductions within the Department. The Sunshine law doesn't apply since this is not a formal council mandated in statute. It is just a working group. This is an informal group at this point and Dale's right, it's not an official council mandated by statute or formed/authorized by our Commissioner or any other Commissioner or the Governor, so, we'll still have everything open to the public but it's not necessary. Members should be able to contact anyone on this committee and group and discuss anything with them.

ITEM #5 - FUTURE MEETING:

The next meeting will be in December 2012. Mr. Dubberly will notify members and all interested parties once a location and date has been determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 am.