

Minutes
Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee
Subcommittee on IPM Outreach
May 30, 2017

Members Present: Jim Cartan, Susan Heckly, Michael Kent (Chair), Andrew Sutherland (arrived late)

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator

Members of the public: None

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

There was none.

3. Approve minutes from April 25, 2017

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written. (SH/JC)

Ayes: Cartan, Heckly, Kent

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Sutherland

4. Discuss outline for the committee's presentation

The committee created the attached outline. The committee agreed that they do not have the expertise to instruct trainees about how to talk to their clients but can point out pest management issues.

The goal of the presentation is an educated County staff that could ultimately be empowered to respond to pest problems in the homes of their clients.

The presentation should be 30 to 45 minutes. Props can enhance the presentation, and a script should be developed for the notes section of the PowerPoint. The script should also be a hardcopy that the presenter can hold.

The committee should collect stories from in-home visitors about situations in which they successfully helped clients with pest problems.

Michael Kent noted that the County's weatherization program contracts with the Department of Energy, and there are strict guidelines for how work must be performed. Even if the work somehow conflicted with pest prevention, the weatherization could not be done differently.

The committee discussed the resources available to trainees.

a. Code Enforcement

i. When is it appropriate to call them?

ii. Calling code enforcement could have negative consequences for the tenant if the landlord is angered.

iii. The committee will need to contact code enforcement to ask what they cover and how they might respond to trainees who call.

b. Legal Aid—they do not seem to have the capacity to help anyone.

c. Tenant's Rights Groups

d. 211

- e. State Office of Consumer Affairs for landlord/tenant law
- f. County Agriculture Department and Master Gardeners for pest ID and management advice
- g. Vector Control for mosquitoes and removal of identified ground nests of yellowjackets
- h. IPM certification programs (EcoWise, Green Shield, GreenPro) for qualified pest management professionals (include tips on how to hire)
- i. Educational materials
 - i. UC Pest Note cards
 - ii. Our Water, Our World fact sheets
 - iii. Create a fact sheet on the responsibilities of tenants and landlords (Andrew will make a draft)
 - iv. Pictorial fact sheets could benefit English language learners and people with low literacy skills, but the committee will not attempt development of such fact sheets yet.
- j. The committee can use the presentation to do a needs assessment on resources.

The IPM Coordinator will create a PowerPoint draft and send it out by 6/14 for comments back by 6/22.

5. Plan next meeting agenda

- Review and edit the presentation.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, July 6 from 1:30 to 3:00.

Outreach Presentation Outline

I. Why care about pests in the home?

1. Asthma triggers
 - a. Pollen
 - b. Pet dander & saliva
 - c. Molds and other fungi
 - d. Cigarette smoke
 - e. Cockroaches, mice, rats—scales, droppings, saliva, urine
 - i. Mice urinate in microdroplets virtually everywhere they roam
 - f. Dust and dust mites
 - g. Chemicals and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
2. Safety
 - a. Rodents are reservoirs and vectors of many diseases that can affect humans
 - i. Acute food poisoning (salmonellosis)
 1. *Salmonella* bacteria thrive in the intestinal tract of rodents and is spread through food contaminated with rodent droppings
 - b. Rats transmit parasites to people, e.g., rat mites
 - c. Rats can and do bite humans
 - d. Rodents chew on electrical wires causing short circuits and fires
 - e. Pesticides sprayed for control of cockroaches can be harmful to people, especially children
 - f. Poisons used to kill rodents can be very dangerous for people, especially children
3. Other problems with pests
 - a. Rodents consume and contaminate food meant for humans
 - i. Contamination of food with urine, feces, and fur is probably a greater problem than disease
 - b. Rodents damage structures and household belongings with their burrowing, gnawing and nest building behaviors
 - c. Pantry pests spoil food meant for human consumption
 - d. Bed bugs cause loss of sleep, anxiety, and psychological problems.
 - i. Very high numbers of bed bugs biting individuals in a home have caused anemia in those residents. The risk would be greatest for young children and the elderly.
 - ii. DIY attempts to control them, often with excessive pesticide use, expose a household to high levels of chemical contamination on beds, in bedrooms, and other parts of the home.

II. How to recognize pest problems

1. Reports from client about seeing a pest
2. Droppings—rats and mice
3. Bites, blood stains, live bugs—bed bugs
4. Live bugs—cockroaches
5. What pests are your clients dealing with? How have you helped them with pests?

III. Pest prevention

1. Benefits of pest prevention
 - a. Fewer pests!
 - b. Fewer asthma attacks
 - c. Cleaner home environment=healthier environment
 - d. Less pesticide use; therefore less exposure
 - e. Long-term solutions
2. Pests need access to the dwelling (holes), food, water, and shelter.
 - a. Eliminate or reduce these and you'll have fewer pests
 - b. If the kitchen is clean and the dishes are done—less available food=fewer pests
 - c. If food is stored in refrigerator or in sealed plastic containers or jars—less available food=fewer pests
 - d. If food garbage is removed to outside receptacle daily—less available food=fewer pests

- e. If outside garbage cans/dumpsters are neat and clean—less attractive for rodents
- f. If the home is clean, neat and without clutter—fewer hiding places for pests, easier to inspect, less dust=fewer dust mites
- g. If sheets are washed once a week, or at least once every 2 weeks—fewer dust mites, bed bugs can be detected early
- h. If leaks are fixed and bathrooms ventilated— conditions are less conducive for mold, termites, cockroaches
- i. If holes in the home are sealed—pests have a harder time getting in and moving around from apartment to apartment

IV. Tips for dealing with pests

1. Many of the pests encountered in the home are community problems and cannot be managed without the involvement of the community—rodents, bed bugs, cockroaches
 - a. tenants
 - b. landlords
 - c. pest management professionals
2. Exceptions are perhaps dust mites, pantry pests
3. So, if at all possible, try to get cooperation from the landlord
4. Cooperative roles in pest management
 - a. Tenants
 - i. Keep home clean and uncluttered
 - ii. Alert landlord about pest problems, suspected or actual
 - iii. Allow access to pest management company personnel
 - b. Landlords
 - i. Maintain clean premises, free of rubbish, filth, garbage and vermin (California Civil Code § 1941.1)
 - ii. Follow new California bed bug law (AB 551, Nazarian in California Civil Code Chapters 1942 and 1954 of Title 5 of Part 4 of Division 3
 1. Includes providing information about bed bugs as prescribed in the law
 2. Inspecting for bed bugs if notified by tenants of suspected infestations
 3. Includes providing tenants with information from a pest management company about bed bug inspections
 - iii. Encourage tenants to report problems
 - iv. Refrain from being judgmental, from retaliating, and from asking tenant to pay for pest control (people will not report problems)
 - v. Keep common areas clean
 - vi. Provide adequate garbage cans and keep area clean
 - vii. Hire a pest control company to perform regular inspections to catch problems early
 - viii. Keep building in good repair—seal holes to prevent pest access, repair leaks, maintain adequate ventilation
 - c. Pest control professionals
 - i. Provide regular inspections and note pest conducive conditions in report to landlord
 - ii. Work cooperatively with tenants to solve problems
 1. Explain connection between food/food garbage and pests
 2. Explain the connection between cleanliness and order and lack of pests
5. Tips for tenants
 - a. Cockroaches—keep things clean, reduce clutter, store food properly, take out garbage, use cockroach sticky traps, use cockroach bait stations
 - b. Rodents—keep things clean, reduce clutter, store food properly, take out garbage, use snap traps (dispose of dead rodent in plastic bag; can dispose of whole trap if desired)
 - c. Dust mites—keep things clean, wash sheets every week, wash other bedding regularly, cover mattress and box springs in pest proof encasements
 - d. Bed bugs (County website: cchealth.org/bedbugs)
 - i. Know what bed bugs and their signs look like

- ii. Keep things clean and reduce clutter
- iii. Wash sheets every week, other bedding regularly
- iv. Inspect for bed bug signs (blood smears, live bugs) when changing sheets
- v. Make the bed an “island”
 - 1. Clean bed and bedding
 - 2. Use Climbup Interceptors under bed legs and pull bed away from walls and furniture, no bed clothes touching floor/walls/furniture
 - 3. Use several Climbups along walls in each room of dwelling—research shows traps are useful in detecting small infestations
- vi. Remove bed bugs with vacuums, packing tape around the head
- vii. Clothes dryer kills all stages—dry items: 15 min on high, wet items: dry and then add 15 minutes on high

V. Resources

VI. Interactive session with trainees

- 1. How do you see yourself incorporating this information into your work?
- 2. What resources do you need? (Any we can provide?)
- 3. What problems do you see with trying to engage people around pests and pest management?
- 4. Stories of how you successfully helped clients?