

Los Angeles Healthy Homes Symposium
Audubon Center at Debs Park
May 27th, 2009, 9:30-4:00 pm

Plenary:

Introduction: Linda Kite

National Center for Healthy Housing, Rebecca Morley:

Healthy Homes American Housing Survey: LA ranks 41st of 45

-NCHH wants to hear from LA,

The commons : regulating housing what are the barriers?

Racial Disparities in EJ and HH. Mortality rates far higher in African/Latino American communities.

-NCHH Scientific based multifaceted Asthma, IPM, radon intervention.

-Policy Needs: Do we really need to choose between affordable housing vs. safe housing?

- Asking HUD for \$100 million for Healthy Homes
- Incentivizing healthy housing in green building funding

Q: Has Weatherization concerns, no bids, few contractors, and not competitive, how is this going to incentivize extra money for healthy housing?

A: According to Suki Montes, CSBG funding is going up from 3100 to 6500 per unit for energy efficiency, opportunity for healthy homes.

LA County Environmental Health: Terrance Powell.

-Evidence: based approach, committed to safe and healthy housing

-Proactive Inspection of 5 or more units

-Build on Existing Programs: Inspector training, and combining housing

-7 food department and programs equals more inspectors.

-Current Challenges: Bed Bugs

-Healthy Homes will help broadening activities and get out of silos.

HH should be incorporated w/ existing practices, and not become a new program.

LA City Attorney's Office: Patty Bilgin

Created its own wing to combat environmental Justice in the face of racism

Cumulative effects of lead on children, candy, packaging, paint etc.

New lawsuits in CA:

- AB121, to demand new lower lead levels in candy
- SB774, amends toxics in packaging, soda, jewelry, toys
- HR 4040, gives manufacturers a chance to clean up. Consumer manufacturers

Panel 1:

HUD, Office of Healthy Housing and Lead Hazard Control, Karen Griego-West:

Strategy- eliminate lead based paint hazards low income children

Results over 10-12 years:

- Allergen levels reduced by 7,000
- Catalyst for 39 LBP State Certificate

Agenda: Collecting Data of results to demonstrate effectiveness to congress for more \$.

- Strategize with other departments such as CDC for additional \$
- History: Healthy Homes Pilot demonstration grants since 1999, but is still going through departmental clearance
- Vision: To build a National Framework
- New partners
 - Better Coordination
 - New leadership: Department of sec. of community planning and development Mercedes Marquez.
 - Best practices of regional meetings in LA for National Model
 - Strong emphasis on Research
- How do we mainstream HH principles?
- Fair housing issues with smoke free public housing, Smoke Free working group
 - Boston case study, director of Indian housing implemented IPM
 - Voluntary smoke free housing in CA

Addressing Asthma, CA Breathing, Janet Tobacman

5 million CA w/lifetime asthma, 3 million recurrent asthma
 11% of adults develop asthma from smoke in their homes
 13% develop asthma from cockroaches

- How can we collaboratively make a difference?
- Collaborate with community groups, PSR, HHC etc.
 - Need research to substantiate
 - Educate stakeholders
 - How do we leverage what's happening to make the most of it?

CDPH CLPPP, Dan Scannell

There are many points for collaboration
 Especially with the Budget Crunch.
 Provide funding 4 outreach, technical assistance, surveillance, data, screening, and testing
 -Contract with outside agencies, CA breathing
 -Certify 7,000 CDPH annually

2 Workgroups

- 1) Title 17 regulations, lead dust levels & EPA
- 2) Outreach education and materials
 - Can send out a physician to train comm. Clinics on why they should test for lead.

LA County Consultant: Karen Pally

-SB775 Follow up
 -Home visits for kids under EBL 10-14
 -Housing objectives and shifting HH into CLPPP

Tom Polansky, Abode Communities, SCANPH

Incorporating IPM into 5 new affordable housing developments
 Challenges and benefits of IPM over time

Q: How affordable is IPM?

A: IPM is more up front, \$120 vs \$40 per month, but it saves money over the long term.

Panel 2

LA County Department of Public Health: Aura Wong (East) Brenda Lopez (Central/Downtown)
District Surveillance Department Protocol and inspection process

Chief CLPPP and Healthy Homes, Maurice Pantoja

Restructuring of Department on June 3rd. HH will go from 9 to 16 offices. And from 10-18 inspectors

No outside funding

Owner is responsible for remediation based on recommendations.

Average HH inspection takes longer and they are still seeing how many units they will feasibly target.

Attend conference with CBOs.

City of L.A., SCEP, Jorge De La Torre:

They inspect all mf homes with 2 or more units and also run a complaint based program

The cycle for inspections is from 3-5 years, but they may determine if a structure needs to be kept on a shorter lease and be inspected every year

Also update inspection info in real time to website so that managers can determine if a unit has been fixed or not.

15 inspectors total and partner with CBOs to gain access to units.

City of LA Lead Hazard Remediation Program: Liseth Romero

Trains lead safe work practices

Provides grants for LHP and will be going green under Neighborhood Stabilization Program (energy efficient windows).

They work with other City depts. Like SCEP, NSP, Handyworker and homeownership.

Open to collaborating with other departments to address root causes. Interested in IPM, Healthy Homes, and seeing how we can call for open implementation.

Los Angeles Community Legal Center: Organizers Erika Aguilar and Veronica Vaquero

Overview of services and scope of work

Challenges of working without the benefits of SCEP in communities of Huntington Park, South Gate, Lynwood

Organizing from the ground-up to establish programs where residents can access resources in their community

Esperanza Community Housing Corporation, Organizing Manager, Cindy Huerta

Benefits of working alongside the City in terms of outreach

Demonstrated how the partnerships work in the field as a model for integrating CBOs in other programs

Panel 3

Coalition for Economic Survival: Organizer, Sua Iris

IPM: advocates for the implementation of a region wide program

Non-toxic or less toxic solution that addresses structural deficiencies such as water damage.

Koreatown Immigrant Worker's Alliance, Organizer, Jang Woo

Breaking Stereotypes: Koreans are not all wealthy business owners, K town is low income area.

Aside from organizing for tenants issues in 3 different languages, they also do tenant legal clinics

Illegal units: Has been a more common problem. There are several structures illegally subdivided, not according to health & safety standards. When inspectors come out, they are unsure if tenants are extended family members, and they are unlikely to pursue criminalization of owner for illegal construction.

Problem Areas to focus on:

The County measures density through cu. ft./person

The City measures density through sq. ft./ person

Would like to see Building and Safety at the table here today so we can work collaboratively on all fronts.

East L.A. Community Corporation, Ernesto Espinoza

Affordable Housing Development is a major component of remediating many of these deteriorating conditions with public health effects.

Historic Property Preservation at Mariachi Plaza.

Pride themselves on community participation in the decision making process of design, and density.

In ELA many residents were open to density after acknowledging why it needed to be done.

Caucus Report Back from the Day

Group 1:

- 1) County moving to healthy homes - How much time will be allocated to doing the healthy homes inspections and does the County have time to do this given other priorities
- 2) Need more external outreach by County with staff from Esperanza
- 3) 38 different public health programs within the county – need better coordination
 - a. Are tablets the solution?

Group 2:

- 1) Need better communication between housing and city
- 2) Need better follow through by government agencies
- 3) Need more IPM contractors

Group 3:

- 1) Shift from giving owners multiple notices to criminalizing code violations
- 2) Get CBOs to support government proposals and build political will
- 3) Set the standard for the rest of the country

Group 4:

- 1) Support CBOs work through contracts (e.g. 20% of grant funding go to CBOs)
- 2) Set goals and evaluate results
- 3) Sell healthy homes program to tenants and find ways to incentivize participation.