

Fresno, Healthy Homes Roundtable Discussion

FIRM, 1-4pm

Rebecca Morley: Overview of Healthy Homes

Definition,
Demographic impacted: low income people of color
Effects on Children
Fresno has the 2nd highest rate of lead poisoning in CA, LA 1st.
Triggers and Mitigation: Severe asthma lowered from 37% to 9% using integrated pest management practices (non-toxic and preventative solutions to pest infestation)
How to become a Healthy Homes Specialist, certification specialist

Introductions:

Overview of Today's Meeting:

- A) What can we do to make homes healthy here in Fresno, and in CA? Legal, government, education? How ?
- B) How do we get people, agencies, and variety of interests to the table in Fresno?

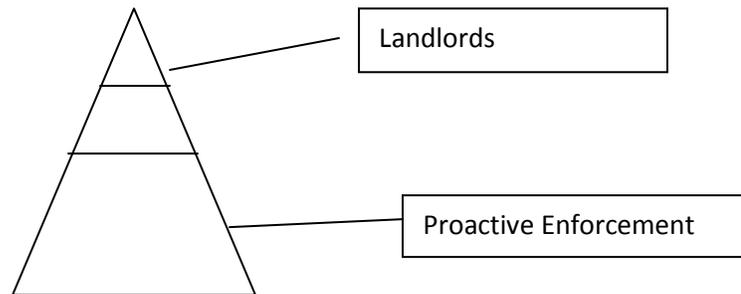
Overview of FIRM:

- A) Began by doing work surrounding tenant's rights and habitability in the early 90s. Then grew into doing more systematic and policy work in order to create change. Focus on Lao and Hmong dem.
- B) We are ready to start an in-home assessment program. They have had a number of small grants from TCE, Wellness etc.
- C) Policy: working on lead removal grant, in conjunction with Alliance for Healthy Homes. Formed Lead Collaborative includes County, City, Dept. of toxic substances control, and Centro la Familia. Weigh in on Mayor's 10x10 Housing Cte. Pro-active code enforcement, access of funds together. Have attended National Healthy Homes Conference.

What do you think is missing?

- We need to build a stronger pest management, and lead agenda. Here in Fresno, we moved to lead from Healthy Homes and we want complimentary dollars and more partnerships. They want a healthy homes grants.
- As fortunate as the partnership is why doesn't the TCE for example fund connections between Cities.
- We need more of a Statewide collaborative; if there were a private foundation for HH maybe those connections could have been made easier.
- CLF: Came into lead from candy, but also tenant organizing. The housing here is severely overcrowded.

- One big issue is that once we identify substandard housing, what do you do to get them into a better unit? Esp with such a lack of affordability.
- A: Once we identify substandard housing, its important to have complimentary laws like relocation, rent control that create affordability
- Employers should be more responsible about housing, they benefit from very inexpensive labor but the substandard housing
- Home owners need to be educated about what their responsibilities are in terms of codes
- For IPM, there may be a green cleaning issues, but the root causes are usually substandard built environment related. No cracks and crevices. Also think that cockroaches come in from outside.
- What is the triangle here in Fresno? Worst problems to the best problems.



- Well today, we are better suited to increase living conditions so that we get to the top. There are new grants such as HH and LHC, and we've also been able to identify the landlords.
- What are the things that the City hopes to accomplish and what do you need help with?
 - We are just getting our internal process set up
 - Setting up Environmental Affairs department
 - The City doesn't look at things in the bigger picture, focus only on surviving the budget.
 - Staff w/in code enforcement has not been trained yet.
 - There are walls and real silos
 - This is not typical code enforcement work
- Neighborhood Stabilization Program: \$\$ for infill, foreclosures, and vacant homes. It can be used to leverage lead, weatherization \$\$ etc. NSP is required to be lead free anyway. We need to make sure that lead education, because they have to follow 2010 plan.
 - RM offers to do a TA over conference call
- We want to learn how to turn the first Hud grant into continuous.
 - Also the new grant allows for a small amount of flexible
 - You can apply for a Healthy Homes grant. And you can integrate any new data
- Fresno is also looking at innovative housing strategies, looking at the first housing trust fund. We are also rebuilding our new membership, and educating the new Mayor. Smart Growth. Community Response

- I live in Belmont and 3rd st which is a very unsafe, the youth are hooked on drugs and very violent. There are no screens there are a lot of flies, pests. I would like to see the problems fixed and to create change.
- 1) Safety and violence, 2) Good quality house and the children who are learning and growing up cannot study and live this way. 3) There is too much exposure to chemicals. 4) Need better quality jobs 5) Affordable Housing 6) Land lords need to take responsibility
- There is also red bugs in the garden

10 minute overview of organizing for IPM

- 1) Baseline Traps
- 2) Green Cleaning
- 3) Code Cites, order to make repairs, they trap again
- 4) Integrated Pest Management: Non-Toxic solution, trap 3rd time
- 5) Hepa vaccum, trap again
- 6) 3 months, 6 months, 12 months you trap again
- 7) Case Proven