

Creating Healthier Housing Through Standards

National Safe & Healthy Housing Coalition Annual Meeting 2010 – Discussion Salon

Facilitator: Rebecca Morley, National Center for Healthy Housing

Technical Experts: Eric Hornbuckle, HUD and International Code Council Staff

General Feedback

- There was broad support for both the FY10 and FY11 Policy Agenda Related to Codes. Coalition members agreed that developing a consensus healthy homes standard and getting it implemented should be a high priority, since many jurisdictions do not have housing codes or if they do, they are not enforced.
- ISO (www.iso.com) could be a good partner and would be a source for tracking data about injuries in the home. They are the leading source of information about property/casualty insurance risk.
- Eric Hornbuckle discussed the Home Health & Safety Rating System that is in place in the UK. Discussed how homes are scored for health and safety issues, how they are inspected, and then the rating system assigned. Mentioned that homes that have a problem that could result in death fail the inspection and have to be repaired.
 - UK System: risk based
 - Requires owners to evaluate property annually based on issues present and likelihood of harm as a result of each (falling, toxicity, etc.)
 - Home health and safety rating system
 - Decent Home Standard
 - Different implementation of correction processes
 - Need incentive for homes to meet minimum standards
 - Incentives for states to implement: (e.g. seatbelt laws - no DOT funding if not enforced)
 - Requirements of inspection at point of sale
 - Insurance related incentives
 - Need Common Assessment Protocol

FY2010 Agenda (Priorities)

- Amend the ICC Model Codes
 - To win greater support for sprinklers in the home, someone needs to conduct a long-term study looking at 10 locations with sprinklers and 10 without and look at fire-related mortality and morbidity between them.
- To support code adoption more broadly, localities need small grants to enforce codes at the local level. The Code Administration Act passed the House as part of the Perlmutter bill and may be included in the Senate version. The Coalition should continue to advocate for this important bill.

FY2011 Agenda (Priorities)

- Amend the Safe Chemicals Act to include standards for building materials
 - Fire Departments as allies
- Amend Home Star legislation to require EPA minimum standards for health and safety