

Appendix B: Social Service Agency Recruitment Letter

Today's Date

To whom it may concern:

I am a graduate student at Portland State University (PSU) and a Principal Investigator conducting research with sex workers in Portland, Oregon. I would like to tell you a little about my study so that you can refer any potential participants and post the enclosed flyers about the study at your agency.

The purpose of this study is to understand the needs and aspirations of sex workers, using the arts-based research method called *photovoice*. According to Caroline Wang and Mary Ann Burris, *photovoice* is a process by which people can identify, represent, and enhance their community through photography. *Photovoice* entrusts cameras to the hands of the people to enable them to act as recorders, and potential catalysts for change in their own communities. It uses the immediacy of the visual image and accompanying stories to provide a voice and to promote an effective, participatory means of sharing individuals' experience and expertise.

The use of *photovoice* in this study is to enable female sex workers in Portland to photograph their lives as a way of documenting their perspectives, strengths, and struggles. The goal is to promote critical dialogue about the issues of concern to sex workers through discussions of their photographs, and to reach influential community advocates and the broader public about their concerns and aspirations through an art exhibit of their photographs.

Those individuals who are eligible for our study are:

- Female and 18 years or older
- Currently working in the sex industry for the past six months (*including working on the streets, at an escort agency, as a dancer, a dominatrix, an erotic masseuse, or as a model in a private booth*)
- Engaged in sex work (*defined as the exchange of sex or sexual stimulation for material goods like money, drugs, food, transportation, or rent*)

All participants will be compensated for their time. The Human Subjects Committee of PSU has strict guidelines that I will follow to protect the confidentiality and the rights of the women who participate in this study. If you have any questions about these procedures or want more details about the study, please do not hesitate to call me, Moshoula, at 503-725-5028, or my community advisor in this study, Crystal, at (503-957-9556). Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Moshoula Capous Desyllas, PSU School of Social Work