APPENDIX A

INFORMED CONSENT FOR THE INTERVIEW FOR CONSUMERS

**Understanding Transitional Housing Programs for Survivors of Interpersonal Violence: A Qualitative Study**

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to explore the XXXXXXX’s {Program name} two transitional housing programs- the XXXXX and XXXXX programs. The information gathered and created as a result of this project has the potential to: 1) contribute to an increased understanding of the usefulness and effectiveness of these programs, 2) provide the XXXXXXX {Program name} with a greater sense of the program’s strengths and limitations, 3) provide the XXXXXXX {Program name} and domestic violence communities with a greater understanding of the longer term needs of survivors of intimate partner violence, and 4) provide individuals who interact with and/or receive services from these programs an opportunity to speak to their experiences, thoughts, feelings, and recommendations for these programs.

Principal Investigator: Name, title, institution.

Procedures

If you agree to participate in this study, the following will occur. You will engage in one interview with an investigator (or research assistant) regarding your experiences with and thoughts concerning the XXXXXXX {Program name} Housing programs through the XXXXXXX {Program name}. Sample questions include:

* Tell me about your experiences with the XXXXXX or XXXXXX.
* What did/do you like the most about the program?
* What did/do you like the least about the program?
* What specific needs did/ you have when you entered the program?
* What would you say are/were your goals when you entered the program?
* In what ways did the programs support you to meet your goals?
* What do you think the purpose or objectives of the program are?
* What recommendations might you have for the program(s)?

The interview will last no more than one hour. You will be paid $20 per hour for your time and participation upon completion of the interview. The interviews will be audiotaped with your permission. Audiotaping will be used (with your permission) to enhance the reliability and validity of the data for analysis, however, you may choose not to be taped during the interview.

Duration

If you agree to participate in the study, you will be asked to participate in one interview, lasting no more than one hour*.*

Number of Study Participants

There will be approximately 46 study participants recruited into this study.

Confidentiality

While confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, the information that you provide about yourself and your experiences will be handled confidentially. Identifiable written data will be retained indefinitely and only the research team will have access to it. No identities will be used in any reports or on the transcriptions or in any publications resulting from this study. Your identify will be protected in this study by:

1) Not using your name. Instead of using your name on the interview transcripts, the researcher will assign you a number code. If it is necessary for the investigator to maintain information that will identify you (address, contact information etc.), a ‘key’ linking your identifying number will be kept in a locked file cabinet separate from the transcripts and will be available only to the investigator and research assistant.

Audiotapes will be maintained in a locked cabinet in the principle investigator’s office in the Graduate School of Social Work at XXXXXXXXX.

2) Not using identifying material in any written or published products from this study.

You will have access to the transcripts of your interview, if you so desire. You may also request to read any of the written products of this research. Your copy of this consent form gives you the information necessary to contact the researcher to gain access to these materials, or to share any comments or concerns you may have about the research.

If you disclose actual or suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a child, or disabled or elderly adult, the researcher or any member of the study staff must, and will, report this to Child Protective Services (CPS), Adult Protective Services (APS) or the nearest law enforcement agency.

Risks

The risks for participating in the interview is no more than minimal, and might include feelings of stress or anxiety about being interviewed. Discussing experiences of abuse and homelessness can be upsetting and can facilitate unpleasant emotions (anger, sadness, frustration, anxiety). Also, talking about difficult experiences that may have happened to you while you were in a violent relationship can bring unpleasant and uncomfortable emotions to the surface.

The researchers of this study understand that the lives of survivors of intimate partner violence can be challenging and rewarding at the same time. Should you share personal challenges with alcohol or drug use, as well as depression and/or physical abuse, with the interviewer, you will be offered referrals for support and counseling offered in Portland, should you want them. Naturally, you have the right to decline the resources.

Every effort will be made to make the interview comfortable and enjoyable for you. The researchers in this study have extensive counseling experience and will do all they can to support you should you feel uncomfortable and/or upset during the interview. You will have the right to stop the interview at any time, as well as refuse to answer any question. You also have the right to decline participation or to withdraw at any point in the study.

Benefits

Benefits associated with participation in this project may include participation in the creation of knowledge and contributing to the body of knowledge and literature concerning transitional housing programs*.* Benefits may also include a deeper understanding of one’s thoughts, beliefs and experiences with violence and the services received through the XXXXXXX {Program name}. By participating in this study, you will help the XXXXXXX {Program name} create and deliver programs that are more responsive to the needs of diverse women.

Costs to Participants

There will be no cost to you for participating in this study. The study will compensate you $20 per hour for your time.

Alternative Procedures

The only alternative procedure is that you choose not to participate in the study.

Voluntary Participation

Participation in this study is strictly voluntary. You may refuse to answer any questions at any time. Your participation will not affect any of the services that you currently receive*.* You may withdraw from the study at any time with no penalty or loss by contacting the Principal Investigator, XXXXXXX.

Concerns

Feel free to contact Dr. XXXXXX for answers to any questions or concerns about the study. You may contact Dr. XXXXX at XXXXXX.

I understand the above material regarding the, **Understanding Transitional Housing Programs for Survivors of Interpersonal Violence: A Qualitative Study**, and understand that my participation in the study is voluntary. I have received a copy of this informed consent letter. I agree to participate in this study.

Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Permission to audio tape \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Sign)