

Appendix E

Screening Protocol: Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Domestic Violence Focus Group/Interview Project

When a potential participant contacts the study we will administer the following screening tool:

Questions:

Thank you for calling the Women's Health Study at the Seattle-King County Public Health Department and the School of Public Health, Health Services Division of the University of WA. We are interested in talking to women who have experienced violence or abuse in relationships with their partners and learning about their experiences getting help. In order to figure out if you are appropriate for this study, I'd like to ask you a few questions. I recognize that this may be difficult to talk about but I need to ask you some very personal things about abuse and violence in your present or past relationships. You are free not to answer any questions you do not wish to answer.

Can we continue?

If you do not end up participating in the study we will not keep the answers to your questions on file. They will be destroyed.

First of all, are you in a safe place right now? Is it OK for you to talk about your relationship?

[If not safe, discuss when she could call back when she will be safe.]

Identification as lesbian or bisexual

1. Do you identify yourself as lesbian, bisexual or transgender?

Identification of domestic violence

2. Are you 18 years of age or older? *If no, let prospective participant know that she needs to be 18 or older in order to participate. Thank her for her time, offer her resources and hang-up.*
3. Have you ever been in a relationship where your partner threatened you with or hurt you physically, sexually or emotionally?

Please tell me if you or your partner/ex-partner have done to each other any of the following things.

4. Shouted, swore or cursed, called names, put the other person down, ridiculed identity, insulted, lied or otherwise hurt emotionally.
5. Insisted the other person give up friends/family, or made it difficult to have friends and family, taken keys of property to keep from leaving, taken money or checkbook, controlled the use of money, locked out of house, or not allowed to leave the house.
6. Pushed, grabbed or carried you against your will, spit, bit, scratched, punched, kicked, hit, forced sex or otherwise hurt physically.

If yes to any of the above, caller is eligible to participate. Proceed with screening.

If no to all of the above, say the following:

Thank you calling the study and participating in this short interview. Because we are interested in hearing from women who have experienced domestic violence, we will not need your participation. We appreciate your time.

When relationship occurred

7. How long ago was the relationship or are you still in it?

Explain the study to participant:

This research study is trying to understand how we better meet the needs of women who are experiencing violence or abuse in intimate relationships. The study will involve participating in either a two-hour interview or a 1½-hour focus group discussion with other lesbian, bisexual or transgender women. You may choose whether to talk to the researcher one-on-one or in a group setting. Interviews and focus groups will be audio-taped. Please be aware that if you decide to participate in a focus group there is a possibility that you may know one or more participants. This may be a safety risk to you.

It is entirely up to you whether or not you choose to participate in the study. Your decision will not in any way affect your relationship with the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health. We will reimburse participants \$35.00 for their time and will assist with childcare and transportation if necessary.

Are you interested in participating in the study?

If yes, continue with remainder of questions. If no, thank her for her time and hang-up.

Safety issues/risk for participation

8. This subject matter can be very difficult. You may feel uncomfortable talking about these issues with a researcher. We want to make sure you understand that this is a research project, not a counseling session. Do you feel prepared to discuss your experiences with researchers? *If yes, continue. If no say the following:*

This research project will be going on through September. If you feel ready to participate a later date you may call back. Thank you for your time. Would you like to know about resources that can help women who have experienced domestic violence? If no, thank her, say good-bye and hang up. If yes, give her the phone number for AABL (568-7777).

9. Is it safe for you to attend a focus group or interview?

10. Is your partner currently stalking you, or has she/he recently threatened to kill you?

If woman says that it is not safe for her to attend a focus group or interview, or indicates lethality factors, discuss safety planning and offer her phone numbers of DV

agencies that help women who are in unsafe situations. Let her know we must consider the safety of other participants, and that we are concerned for her safety and we strongly recommend she access services and that at this time we can not accommodate her participation in the study.

11. How will you explain to your partner where you are at the time of the interview/focus group if this is necessary?

Discuss a plausible cover story that participant can tell her partner and her children (if applicable).

12. Would you prefer to participate in a focus group of women like yourself or in an individual interview?

13. Have you ever received services from AABL?

If she has received services from the agency, schedule her into focus group/interview being facilitated by an alternate. If not, schedule her into agency-run focus group/interview.

If the participant opts for a focus group, schedule her into a focus group, tell her the time and location and let her know that on-site childcare will be provided. Ask her if she intends to bring any of her children with her (record # of children). Ask her if she thinks her child will be able to participate cooperatively in a 2-hour childcare group. If no, ask her if she can leave her child with a friend or a relative. Otherwise, we will not be able to accommodate her participation at this time. Ask her if she will have any difficulty getting to and from the focus group. If so, let her know that the study will reimburse her afterwards for transportation costs up to \$XX.

If the participant opts for an individual interview schedule a convenient and safe time and location.

14. Read following statement on safety and confidentiality

Because domestic violence is a serious threat to the health and safety of women, your safety and the safety of other participants is of utmost importance to us. As a participant in the study we are relying on you to help us ensure your safety and the safety of others. We ask that you keep the topic of the study confidential from everyone including children and that you do not disclose the location of focus groups to anyone. You will also be asked to promise not to discuss with others what you heard in focus groups. Your participation in this study will be confidential. You will not need to use your real name or disclose information that could put you at risk at any time. Please be aware that we ask that you not use alcohol or drugs for at least 24 hours before your focus group or interview. We will reimburse you \$35.00 for your time.

Would it be safe for us to make a reminder call to you as the date of your scheduled focus group/interview approaches?

If so, are there specific times that we SHOULDN'T call you?

IF OK TO CALL. What is your phone number? _____

15. We look forward to seeing you on X date. If you find you will not be able to attend, please call me at this number. If you have friends who might like to participate please have them call the study phone number. If you have any questions about the study, please call Kirsten Senturia at 205-0562.