***Consent Form***

*We are seeking LGBTQ community members and LGBTQ-identified survivors of partner violence to participate in an interview. Details about the research project are provided below.*

**Title of Study and Researchers Involved**

This study entitled, *Community Needs Assessment: Improving Services to LGBTQ-identified Survivors of Domestic Violence,* is being conducted by a research team from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Drs. Stacy Sechrist & Paige Smith are the principal investigators on this project meaning that they are overseeing the recruitment, data collection, analysis, reporting, and dissemination of findings stemming from the data collected in this project.

**What the study is about**

The purpose of this Community Needs Assessment is to gather information from stakeholders working in or serving in various capacities within community where the *North Carolina LGBTQ Domestic Violence Response Initiative* is operating. The *North Carolina LGBTQ Domestic Violence Response Initiative* has a goal of improving domestic violence service providers’ capacity to provide safe, effective, and culturally competent services to LGBTQ-identified survivors of domestic violence. The *NC LGBTQ Domestic Violence Response Initiative* is active in five communities across NC, including yours. We would like to conduct interviews with LGBTQ individuals who reside in the local communities where the larger *NC LGBTQ Domestic Violence Response Initiative* is occurring. Interviews would provide insights into perceptions of barriers to LGBTQ survivors seeking services from service provider agencies, perceptions about what creates or provides safe & affirming spaces for LGBTQ-identified persons, and perceptions or ideas about what could cultivate safer & healthier environments for the LGBTQ community.

**What we will ask you to do**

We will ask you to participate in an interview conducted by a member of the UNCG research team. Interviews will be audiorecorded. The interview session will last approximately 1 to 1.25 hours. Specific interview questions will address the topics and content areas identified in the paragraph above.

**Risks and discomforts**

**We do not foresee any legal or physical risks to you as a research participant through your participation in this interview. The UNCG research team will take precautions to protect the confidentiality of the audiorecorded data collected during the interview.**

**Specifically:**

* **Audiorecorded data will be stored in a secure file on a UNCG-protected system (the Box storage platform) and accessible only by members of the UNCG research team**
* **No identifying information about the individual interviewee will be collected during the interview itself**
* **Any identifying information, such as the name of the organization from where the interview participants came, will not be stored with the audiorecorded data file(s) and will be stored on a separate master list on a secure and password protected location such as Google Drive, which will be separate from the location of the audiorecorded interview.**
* Findings from the interviews will be presented in an aggregated format for use in the project, meaning that no individual participant will be named and/or no individual participant's identity will be able to be determined from the reports generated from the findings.
* Because your voice will be potentially identifiable by anyone who hears the recording, your confidentiality for things you say on the recording cannot be guaranteed although the researcher will try to limit access to the recording.

Given that one of the topics to be discussed during the interview is domestic or intimate partner violence, there may be some emotional discomfort for participants who may have been impacted professionally or personally by this issue. As such, participants may step away from the interview and return when they are ready, choose not to answer certain questions, and/or discontinue or withdraw from the interview at any time.

**Benefits**

The data provided will be used to make recommendations and inform strategies to improve the services offered by local domestic violence provider agencies and other community agencies to LGBTQ-identified survivors, which will hopefully translate into safer and more effective services to LGBTQ-identified survivors. Further benefits may include increased collaboration between your organization and the local domestic service provider agency in your community and increased community safety overall given that recommendations and strategies informed by these findings are implemented by local domestic violence service provider agencies in your community.

**Audiorecording**

**Interviews will be audiorecorded, stored in a secure UNCG-protected Box storage platform, and will be kept for a period of up to five years at which point the audiorecorded files will be destroyed. The audiorecoded files may be transcribed for purposes of data analysis. Transcription files will also be stored in a secure UNCG-protected Box storage platform accessible only to the UNCG research team. Transcription files may be kept indefinitely.**

**Privacy/Confidentiality/Data Security**

As explained above, participant privacy and confidentiality will be protected via the following:

* **Audiorecorded data will be stored in a secure file on a UNCG-protected system (the Box storage platform) and accessible only by members of the UNCG research team**
* **No identifying information about the individual participants will be collected during the interview itself**
* **Any identifying information, such as the name of the organization from where the interview participants came, will not be stored with the audiorecorded data file(s) and will be stored on a separate master list on a secure and password protected location such as Google Drive, which will be separate from the location of the audiorecorded interview.**
* Findings from the interviews will be presented in an aggregated format for use in the project, meaning that no individual participant will be named and/or no individual participant's identity will be able to be determined from the reports generated from the findings.
* All information obtained in this study is strictly confidential unless disclosure is required by law.

**Your confidentiality will be kept to the degree permitted by the technology being used. We cannot guarantee against interception of data sent via the internet by third parties.**

**Taking part is voluntary**

Your involvement in this interview is voluntary, you may refuse to participate before the study begins, discontinue at any time, or skip any questions/procedures that may make you feel uncomfortable, with no penalty, and no effect on your relationship with UNCG or any other organization or service that may be involved with the research or the larger NC LGBTQ Domestic Violence Response Initiative.

**If you have questions**

If you have additional questions about this research project, please contact Dr. Sechrist (smesechi@uncg.edu) or Dr. Smith (phsmith@uncg.edu). This study has been approved by UNCG’s Institutional Review Board. If you have any questions about this project or risks or benefits associated with being in this study, please contact the Office of Research Integrity at UNCG toll free at (855) 251-2351.

**Statement of Consent**

By participating in the interview, I consent to take part in the study.