



Working to End Assault & Violence for Everyone

January, 2020

Dear Staff, Parents, and Guardians,

My name is Sara Rumbarger, and I am the Program Coordinator for WEAVE (Working to End Assault and Violence for Everyone). WEAVE is a collaboration of service providers in Kent County that specialize in disability services and sexual violence advocacy. The six organizations involved are YWCA West Central Michigan, MOKA, Spectrum Community Services, Thresholds, Pine Rest, and Hope Network. The mission of WEAVE is to examine and enhance systems for serving individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD) to reduce the risk of sexual violence and to better serve and empower individuals with I/DD who have survived sexual assault/abuse.

I am writing to share **WEAVE's free 8 week Healthy Relationships Group for adults with I/DD**. The Healthy Relationships Group curriculum empowers participants by giving them tools to stay safe and reduce the risk of experiencing sexual violence. Healthy Relationships is set up in a classroom-style environment with lessons designed specifically for adults with I/DD. We welcome all adults (men and women aged 16 years or older) with I/DD who are excited to come and learn! Healthy Relationships is grant funded and is offered at no charge to participants. Participation in the program will not impact participants' insurance or plans of service. WEAVE currently offers the Healthy Relationships Group multiple times a year.

The spring Healthy Relationships group will be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4-6 pm from April 6- May 27, 2020. The group will take place at the YWCA; free GO!Bus and Rapid bus tickets are available to assist with transportation.

The WEAVE team greatly appreciates your help in connecting the people in your life with I/DD to the Healthy Relationships program. Included with this letter is a brochure about the program and the group schedule that we hope you are able to share with individuals with I/DD. Unfortunately, sexual assault/abuse is experienced by people who have disabilities at astounding rates; people with disabilities are twice as likely to experience sexual violence in their lifetime compared to people without disabilities. This level of risk is up to four to ten times more likely if the person's disability is developmental or intellectual in nature. WEAVE created the Healthy Relationships curriculum as an important part of our mission to change these statistics in our community.

If you are interested in more information about Healthy Relationships, you can contact me year-round. Individuals who are interested in signing up for the **spring** group should **contact me by March 16, 2019**. I can be reached via email at srumbarger@ywcawcmi.org or via phone at 616-426-3729.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Sara Rumbarger'.

Sara Rumbarger, LMSW

WEAVE Program Coordinator

YWCA West Central Michigan