

NORTON SOUND/BERING STRAIT

DV/SV RESOURCE GUIDE

SURVIVING ABUSE

PROMOTING WELLNESS

CHANGING HARMFUL BEHAVIORS



If you or someone else needs help with safety:

EMERGENCY CONTACTS:

BERING SEA WOMEN'S GROUP (BSWG)

24-hour Crisis Number: (907) 443-5444

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Nome State Trooper: 1-800-443-2835 or (907) 443-2835

After hours, contact Nome Police Department: (907) 443-5262

Unalakleet State Trooper: 1-800-443-2835 or (907) 624-3073

REGIONAL OCS OFFICES:

Nome: (907) 443-5247

Northern Region Intake: 1-800-353-2650 | hss.ocsnrointake@alaska.gov

PROGRAM DIRECTORY:

Bering Sea Women's Group

501 W 5th Ave, Nome, AK 99762

Business: (907) 443-5491

24-hour Crisis: (907) 443-5444

www.beringseawomensgroup.org

Kawerak Child Advocacy Center (CAC)

PO Box 948, Nome, AK 99762

Business: (907) 443-4376

24-hour Crisis: (907) 304-1014

<http://www.kawerak.org/cac.html>

Kawerak Wellness Program

Phone: (907) 443-4393

<http://www.kawerak.org/wellness.html>

Norton Sound Health Corporation Behavioral Health Department

Phone: (907) 443-3344

www.nortonsoundhealth.org/Divisions/Community-Health-Services/Behavioral-Health-Services

Norton Sound Health Corporation SART

SANE/SART Office: (907) 443-3314

ER/Fast Track: (907) 443-3311, ask for the ER



CALL 211 OR 1-800-478-2221
FOR ANY SOCIAL SERVICE OR
SAFETY RESOURCE.

DEFINITIONS:

For detailed definitions related to domestic violence see PDF titled "Basic Definitions". For additional information on the reporting and response to domestic violence and child abuse, see PDF infographics.

Surviving Abuse: next



REPORTING: FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

(See PDF called “**Basic Definitions**” and PDF called “**Infographic: What to Do if You Suspect a Child is Being Abused or Neglected**” for more information on Child Advocacy Centers, or CACs.)

The **Kawerak Child Advocacy Center (CAC)** is a child-friendly, culturally respectful place where caring professionals work together, in one location, to help children and families cope with sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, and exposure to violence. It provides one place for the evaluation, investigation, and treatment of child abuse, reducing the trauma of the reporting process for children and their families. Services include:

- **Transportation** to the CAC for families living in villages (at no cost to the families)
- **Child-friendly, developmentally appropriate interviews** conducted by a trained forensic interviewer
- **Medical examinations** (when necessary, and when the child consents) performed by a caring health care provider with special training in child abuse
- **Family advocates** to guide families through the CAC process and support them afterwards
- **Information and support** to help caregivers understand the abuse and how to help the child
- **Accompaniment and support** for the child through the court process
- **Children’s counseling** and **family counseling** available through the Norton Sound Health Corporation’s Behavioral Health Dept.
- Staff or volunteers who speak Iñupiaq, Siberian Yupik, and Yup’ik are available as interpreters, and language lines can be used for other languages
- **Lodging** at the CAC or at a hotel for families who need to stay overnight in Nome



Photo Credit: Esther Pederson. At the Kawerak CAC, children have the chance to tell their story in a developmentally-appropriate interview in their first language. Pictured here is the interview room.



Photo Credit: Esther Pederson. Sometimes traveling into Nome and home again takes longer than one day, due to weather delays or it not being safe to return to the village. The CAC has 1 room, 2 beds, 2 cots and a couch available to help families, and can provide transportation to and from the airport.



REPORTING: FOR ADULTS

(See PDF called “**Basic Definitions**” and PDF called “**Infographic: what are your options as an adult victim of DV and/or SV**” for more information about the option of reporting and about Sexual Assault Response Teams or SARTs)

Adults (ages 18 and older) are not required to make a report if they are abused by a partner or sexually assaulted by anyone, but if they choose to, here is what is in place for victims in the region:

- If a victim (female or male) of sexual assault contacts local law enforcement, they can receive transportation (at no cost to them) from the outlying villages to the confidential, secure facility in Nome at the Norton Sound Health Corporation for the SART process.
- In the SART process, the victim can meet with a law enforcement officer or Trooper, receive support from an advocate, and complete a forensic exam done by a trained medical professional.
- If a victim of sexual assault does not want to make a report, they can still get services from the SART.
- Partner physical violence can be reported to local law enforcement or health care providers. With the victim’s permission, they can contact victim advocates to assist with safety planning.
- Victims and concerned loved ones may also contact the Bering Sea Women’s Group to get help making a police report and/or to get information about the reporting process.

If a victim chooses not to report to Law Enforcement, they are still highly encouraged to get a medical exam for their own personal health (e.g. antibiotics and Plan B to prevent STDs and pregnancy) and to address any other medical conditions as a result of being assaulted (e.g. strangulation).

Additionally, if a victim chooses not to report or have a medical exam, they are still encouraged to speak with an advocate, who can help them talk about their experience, safety plan etc.

SHELTER

For victims of abuse and their children needing immediate safety, the following options are available:

Nome:

Bering Sea Women’s Group (BSWG)

A **12 bed shelter** (4 bedrooms) for adult women and their children (boys only up to age 15) and emancipated minor young women

Transportation to shelter for victims and their children (at no cost)

Male children 16 and older can be placed in a safehouse or other setting

Length of stay determined individually based on the goals each woman is trying to meet

For **male victims**, BSWG will find placement at a safe house, shelter or hotel

Space for women to **store and cook subsistence food** at the shelter

If shelter is full, BSWG will place women and children at a safehouse or hotel in the community

Childcare and playground for children of shelter residents

Norton Sound/Bering Strait area villages:

In a number of villages in the region, **safehome** volunteers provide a safe place for victims of abuse to stay for a short period

For villages without a safehome, BSWG advocates will help a victim develop a safety plan and find a temporary safe place to stay



ADVOCACY, SUPPORT, AND INFORMATION

Trained, compassionate, culturally-connected advocates are available at BSWG and the Kawerak CAC to help victims of violence, their family members and loved ones, and others who have questions about abuse. Advocates provide the following services (which are not just for people in shelter):



Photo Credit: Esther Pederson. The Bering Sea Women's Group shelter in Nome strives to create a family-friendly, culturally-appropriate atmosphere for women and their children, and to provide age-appropriate activities for children in shelter.

- **24-hour hotlines** where they provide a listening ear, support, and information to victims of violence, their family members and loved ones, or others who have questions about abuse
- **Safety planning**
- **Legal advocacy** (court accompaniment, protective orders, connecting victim to a lawyer at no cost, etc.)
- **Medical advocacy** (supporting victim to get healthcare and supporting victim through the SART process)
- **One-on-one support** and information, group support and education (see section 4 of prevention)
- Help to find housing, food, clothing, job training and other **basic needs**
- Assistance filing for money through **Victims of Violent Crimes Compensation**
- Help to find other needed **resources**, such as counseling or children's programs
- BSWG provides connections to **elder mentors** and support people



Photo Credit: Esther Pederson. The caring advocates at the Kawerak CAC (pictured here) and at Bering Sea Women's Group are available to provide information, referrals, help with transportation and basic needs, and ongoing support to children and families who have experienced abuse.

- Some staff understand Yup'ik and Iñupiaq, and staff from Norton Sound Health Corporation Social Services Dept. can interpret for Yup'ik, Iñupiaq, and Saint Lawrence Island Yupik. Local interpreters for other languages
- Staff trained in and sensitive to working with LGBTQ clients



YOUTH MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Education Opportunities:

Nome:

BSWG advocates offer classes for community schools on topics such as:

- domestic violence
- sexual violence
- BSWG services and how to get help

Nome:

Kawerak CAC staff present at community schools on topics such as:

- child safety
- prevention
- who to talk to if you or someone you know may be experiencing sexual abuse

Nome:

Kawerak Wellness staff offer trainings in classrooms on the Green Dot approach to bystander intervention and violence prevention

All Norton Sound/Bering Strait area villages:

Kawerak CAC staff present in Bering Strait schools on topics such as:

- child safety
- prevention
- who to talk to if you or someone you know may be experiencing sexual abuse

WAYS YOUTH CAN GET INVOLVED:

Kawerak Wellness offers camps in the summer for youth from the region such as Camp Igalik. These camps revolve around subsistence activities, the teachings of elders, healthy living, healthy relationship skills, cultural awareness, and suicide prevention

Kawerak Wellness, in partnership with Nome Public Schools and the Bering Strait School District, runs the **Youth Leaders** program in Nome and in every village of the region. In this program:

- Youth at every school select their peer leaders
- Youth Leaders receive training on areas such as bullying, dating violence, healthy relationships, suicide signs and prevention, substance abuse, suicide prevention, leadership, and teamwork
- Youth Leaders use traditional, cultural conflict-resolution skills and come up with effective, youth-focused ways of solving problems in their schools and communities
- Youth at every school are supported by sponsors and adult mentors

The Kawerak Wellness Program's **Mentoring Program** and **Story Sharing with Elders** help identify community role models in each community. These adult and elder role models help youth develop life skills, a sense of identity and belonging, and a link to their traditional language and culture.



Photo Credit: Esther Pederson. Bridie Trainor, pictured here, runs the Kawerak Wellness Program. Projects engage youth and community in multiple initiatives working to create a culture of wellness.



Photo Credit: Esther Pederson. The trained, caring, culturally-connected advocates at Bering Sea Women's Group are available to listen, provide support, give information, help people through the legal system, and connect people to resources via the 24 hour toll-free hotline or at the shelter.

CHANGING COMMUNITY NORMS:

Kawerak Wellness aims to recognize a culture of wellness through a number of community efforts. These include:

- bringing together community volunteers for Safety Patrol, who patrol the streets in the community
- wellness fairs in the community to bring all the community providers together and inform community members about what services are available to them
- media outreach to raise awareness in the community, such as through PSAs, print media, the Walk For Life, and other activities
- training on Green Dot, a bystander intervention approach that helps provide community members with the skills needed to stop violence before it occurs and to change norms that support violence. For more information about Green Dot, visit: www.greendotalaska.com

BSWG helps organize community awareness events and creates printed media messages about violence prevention, youth and sexuality, suicide prevention, etc.

Kawerak CAC promotes child safety by contributing to the following:

- organizing community events such as April's Child Abuse Awareness Month and Honoring Our Children
- participating in Wellness, Career, and Safety Fairs in the region
- Public Service Announcements on KNOM and KICY
- posters, magnets, and postcards regarding child abuse statistics and child safety measures

EMPOWERMENT, SUPPORT, AND EDUCATION GROUPS :

BSWG holds groups on topics such as parenting, domestic violence, and support that are open to community members and shelter residents.



HELP FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE HARMED OTHERS

Batterer Intervention Programs:

There are no batterer intervention programs in the region; that is, there are no programs that address the beliefs and learned behaviors that contribute to violence and how to change them. The resources that do exist for someone wishing to change abusive beliefs and behaviors are:

Norton Sound Health Corporation's Behavioral Health Department offers individual counseling to help people make positive life changes, including to stop abusing others

Members of **Kawerak Wellness** work to bring education to residents of the jail and Seaside Halfway House on understanding and managing anger

For parents:

For information on responses for caregivers who are involved with the Office of Children's Services (OCS) or at risk of OCS involvement, contact your local OCS office or ICWA coordinator, or Kawerak Children and Family Services.