

Dear parents and
caretakers,

I am writing to introduce myself - my name is Laura Alberti and I work for Bay Area Women Against Rape (BAWAR), a nonprofit sexual violence crisis center in Oakland. Despite the founding name, coined in 1971, BAWAR serves people of all genders - as well as all ages, races, socioeconomic classes, etc. - who are affected by any form of sexual violence. I invite you to peruse our website for more information on services offered: www.bawar.org.

Starting in the Fall of 2019, BAWAR will be implementing a comprehensive sexual violence prevention program at Oakland School for the Arts (OSA). This program is made possible by the Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) grant through the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). This funding allows BAWAR to dedicate a full-time staff member (myself) to this sole project, entirely free of charge to the school, per a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by both the agency (BAWAR) and the school (OSA).

Our goal is to create social shifts within the OSA community via comprehensive, measured, and targeted sexual violence prevention education. The program will center around the high school, but the middle school will receive select program elements as well. Starting this Fall, I will be teaching a Healthy Relationships curriculum to the 9th grade Health class sections. I will be utilizing the Peace Over Violence evidence-based program In Touch with Teens - an overview can be found here: <https://www.peaceoverviolence.org/curricula>.

Additional program elements include trainings with OSA faculty and administrators regarding trauma-informed responses to sexual violence, as well as development of the school's prevention policy and disclosure pipeline. I will also be working with a Peer Educators Team - this group of high school volunteers will be trained to deliver a modified, introductory Healthy Relationships curriculum to the 7th graders in Julie Humphrey's Health class. Lastly, there will be school-wide awareness building campaigns, developed in conjunction with arts programming, as well as informational sessions with parents and caretakers throughout the school year.

At this point in time, I am in close communication with administrators as we develop the program implementation plan. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions! I am happy to address any concerns or specific hopes - the purpose of this program is to meet the specific community's needs, so I'd love as much involvement from families and caretakers as you all are comfortable offering. Thanks so much for reading and I look forward to supporting this community!

Best,
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