



**To protect, shelter and empower people impacted by domestic and sexual violence.**

## NEW Home for WRC Men's Program

**We are excited to announce a change in a critical program to our community.**

Men Exploring Nonviolent Solutions (MENS) is a program designed for individuals seeking to change their behavior and promote healthy relationships. The cycle of violence can be a learned behavior in which a person uses many forms of verbal and emotional abuse and physical abuse to control others. For over 30 years, the Women's Resource Center has offered the MENS program for men referred to the program through the court system, reunification plans, or voluntary enrollment.

In the Summer of 2021, following the retirement of the program's long-time facilitator and with WRC Board approval, a WRC programming subcommittee began the process of researching other programs like MENS in the region and their affiliation with survivor services agencies.

The local and regional experts we talked to thanked us for running the program for so long and shared how important it was to remain a part of our community. *We also learned that it is unusual for a domestic violence survivor services agency to facilitate a batterer intervention program.*

**We are happy to share that Second Chance Counseling Center, LLC will be taking over the WRC MENS program on December 1, 2021.**

Second Chance is owned-operated by Chance Gawlinski, LLMSW, CADAC, who has facilitated a program for batterers in the Petoskey area for six years. Chance is passionate about educating and providing services to people who face substance abuse, domestic violence, and mental health issues.

Here are some important details about the transition of the program:

The transition will officially take place on December 1, 2021, and the WRC will continue to provide as-needed support to Second Chance. Second Chance's programming has been approved by the WRC and aligns with the Duluth Model currently being used.

Second Chance will continue facilitating the program in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau counties virtually. They will determine when to move to a hybrid model that will include virtual and in-person groups.

The current fee structure will be maintained for all existing WRC clients, with a new fee structure (increasing attendance fee to \$5 per session) being implemented for all new clients. The duration of the program will change from 36-39 weeks.

The batterer intervention program that the WRC started in 1986 with the support of many of you in the legal and law enforcement professions will continue to be a part of the fabric of our community. And we are excited that it will continue to grow and develop at Second Chance Counseling Center LLC.

Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions:

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