



# Region 4 Conference

May 3-5, 2024

**Hosted by:**  
**Renew Therapeutic Riding Center**  
**Holland, Michigan**

PATH Intl. Region 4 welcomes you to an educational and fun weekend with your friends and colleagues in Michigan. Your registration fee includes dinner on Friday, breakfast and lunch on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. *This conference is in-person only.*

## CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

**Friday p.m., Saturday a.m. & Sunday sessions**  
**Camp Geneva & Retreat Center**  
3995 Lakeshore Drive N, Holland, MI 49424  
<https://campgeneva.org>  
25-minute drive from Renew

**Pre-Conference Friday & Saturday p.m. sessions**  
**Renew Therapeutic Riding Center**  
5080 146th Avenue, Holland, MI 49423  
<https://renewtrc.org>  
25-minute drive from Camp Geneva

## INCLUDED LODGING

**Camp Geneva & Retreat Center**  
3995 Lakeshore Drive N, Holland, MI 49424

## AIR TRAVEL

Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR)  
Grand Rapids, MI ~30-minute drive to Renew

We will be lodging on the Pines Campus at Camp Geneva, adjacent to beautiful Lake Michigan. Lodging is in cabins of 8 beds, each cabin has its own bathroom and lounge. Attendees are responsible for bringing bedding or a sleeping bag, plus a bath towel and toiletries. **Please note that lodging will not be available for onsite registration.** Housing questions and requests can be directed to [conferencehousing@renewtrc.org](mailto:conferencehousing@renewtrc.org). We will make every effort to accommodate your requests.

If you plan to come for the Pre-Conference and require lodging for the night before (May 2), limited lodging is available at Camp Geneva at a cost of \$22. No camp meals are available for Thursday, May 2. *All Camp Geneva lodging details will be provided to guests as the conference nears.*

## OTHER LODGING

Available on your own. Due to the start of the Tulip Time Festival on the same weekend, be aware that lodging options may be more expensive and will be limited throughout the area.

### Recommended:

**Springhill Suites Hotel\***  
3084 W. Shore Drive, Holland, MI 49424  
(616) 399-2500

\*Rooms are limited due to the Tulip Time Festival, but you can request a special "Haworth" rate when you call. You can also email the manager directly at [tessa.conner@marriott.com](mailto:tessa.conner@marriott.com) to make your reservation.

## PATH INTL. REGION 4 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Online registration will be available February 26, 2024, through April 19, 2024. After April 19, 2024, registration will need to be completed on-site. **There is no single day registration available.**

**IF YOU ARE A PRESENTER OR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBER, DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER WITH YOUR CODE!**

### **Registration February 26, 2024 through April 19, 2024:**

Full Conference w/lodging and meals	\$265 members	\$315 non-members
Full Conference w/meals only	\$205 members	\$255 non-members

### **Registration on-site after April 19, 2024:**

Full Conference w/meals only (no on-site lodging available)	\$295 members	\$345 non-members
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### **Optional Pre-Conference (no discount code):**

Pre-Conference w/lodging (Camp Geneva on Thursday, May 2)	\$97 members	\$147 non-members
Pre-Conference only	\$75 members	\$125 non-members

### **Refund Policy:**

**No refunds due to weather unless the conference is canceled.**

**Written cancellation request is required for refund. Email [manderson@pathintl.org](mailto:manderson@pathintl.org)**

**Deadline for Full Refund** – Request received in PATH Intl. office by **April 19, 2024.**

**Deadline for 50% Refund** – Request received in PATH Intl. office by **May 5, 2024.**

**Individuals who do not submit a written request to PATH Intl. by May 5, 2024 will not receive a refund.**

### **Education:**

This conference satisfies up to **11** hours of continuing education requirements. The pre-conference satisfies up to **5** hours of continuing education requirements.

### **COVID-19 Information:**

Renew Therapeutic Riding Center and Camp Geneva follow all CDC and State of Michigan guidelines regarding COVID-19 virus protocols. If you are ill or have been exposed to the virus at the time of the conference, we ask that you not attend. Please see the refund policy.

## PRE-CONFERENCE AGENDA

All times are Eastern

**FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024**

### LOCATION

**Renew Therapeutic Riding Center**

8:30 a.m. **Registration and Continental Breakfast in Arena**

9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Sessions Begin** (includes working boxed lunch at noon)

### **P1, Executive Director Workshop Track CE**

Join us for an interactive workshop designed to assist industry leaders in taking their centers to the next level. Topics covered will include fundraising, human resource development, strategic planning, capacity building and more. There will be something for everyone regardless of the size or age of their organization.

### **P2, The Experienced Instructor Track CR Riding**

This session is geared toward experienced instructors. It will be cover: arena set ups (creativity, simplicity, skill variety, how to use one set up in multiple ways, etc.), mounting/dismounting, diversifying programs, teaching effective group lessons (including teaching varying skill levels in one group) and problem-solving student challenges.

### **P3, PATH Intl. CTRI® Prep Track CR Riding**

This session is designed to help candidates who are pursuing their PATH Intl. CTRI® feel more confident moving forward. It will also be valuable for mentors working with future PATH Intl. CTRI® candidates. The session will go over the certification process, how to develop a good TR lesson and implement important teaching techniques, hands-on mounting and dismounting practice, and the opportunity to practice for your certification video! There will be live feedback from experienced EAS professionals and your peers.

*Pre-conference faculty [bios available below in their respective main conference sessions]: Melissa Conner, Kim Berggren, Kent Wallace, Amanda Bubb, Mary Jo Beckman, Kayla Tuinenga, Tam Homnick and Tasha Malinchoc-Federinko*

2:30 p.m. **Travel to Camp Geneva for the conference opening!**  
Allow 25 minutes driving time.

## **MAIN CONFERENCE AGENDA**

All times are Eastern

### **Friday, May 3, 2024**

#### **Camp Geneva - Pines Campus**

2:30 – 6 p.m. **Registration & Welcome**

3 p.m. **Silent Auction opens**

#### **Session A**

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

### **A1, Intentional Program Planning for Sustainability and Sanity Part 1 CE**

Whether looking to design a new program or improve tracking systems for implementation and evaluation, this conversation is for you. A logic model (tool) is the foundation for understanding intention/needs, planning/logistics and goals/sustainability. While lofty, this is completely manageable and fun!

***Aviva Vincent, PhD, LMSW** is a veterinary social worker and co-owner of Healing Paws LLC. She is social work faculty at Cleveland State University and a PATH Intl. CTRI® and ESMHL at Fieldstone Farm Therapeutic Riding Center. Dr. Vincent is trained in results-based accountability for organizational strategic planning and evaluation. She holds facilitator training through the Harwood Institute, Sustained Dialogue and the Institute for Social Change. As a social justice advocate, she centers DEI in her practice inclusive of access and belonging. She is on the PATH International board of trustees wherein she chairs the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee. She also chairs the conference committee for the International Association of Veterinary Social Work.*

### **A2, Silver Saddles CE**

Learn about creative ways to meet the needs of seniors in your community. Discussion will focus on TR and EAL and exploring ways to support this population.

***Teresa Harrington** is a PATH Intl. CTRI® at Renew Therapeutic Riding Center. Her passion for meeting the needs of seniors in the community has been over a decade in the making. She enjoys working with seniors through groundwork or riding experiences. Teresa is a recently retired middle school teacher and is able to employ her creativity and energy into EAL and TR programming.*

### **A3, Healing with Horses: A Sexual Trauma Recovery Group CE**

Learn about a pilot project of a creative approach to healing sexual trauma through the integration of feminist and trauma-informed healing principles with equine partners and volunteer mentors, through a six-week therapy group for young female and non-binary-identified survivors of sexual assault.

***Laura Sanders, LMSW** has been an instructor in U of M's graduate social work program for 27 years and a therapist in the Ann Arbor area for 35 years. She provides private therapy, consultation, training and supervision in healing sexual abuse, trauma, attachment and adoption, relational and behavioral problems, and applies culturally sensitive adaptations of methods to diverse populations. She is a PATH Intl. ESMHL and owns a small private practice, Lovingway Therapeutic Farm, a PATH Intl. center member, where she partners with horses, a variety of other farm animals and a core group of volunteers to provide therapy services.*

***Ramiro Martinez** is a PATH Intl. ESMHL and is farm manager and animal handler at Lovingway Therapeutic Farm.*

4:30 – 4:45 p.m.

**BREAK**

## **Session B**

4:45 – 5:45 p.m.

### **B1, Intentional Program Planning for Sustainability and Sanity Part 2 CE**

Continuation of A1.

### **B2, EAS - Riding/Driving Comparison CR Driving, CR Riding**

When providing equine-assisted services, riding and driving students can benefit from the required skills for each discipline. This presentation is a comparison of those skills and benefits.

*Mary Jo Beckman is a PATH Intl. Master Level Riding Instructor, Level 1 Driving Instructor and accreditation lead site visitor.*

### **B3, Supporting Children Experiencing Abuse and/or Neglect DE**

This presentation will focus on helping professionals identify signs of child abuse and neglect. Participants will learn how to navigate these difficult situations, provide support to children, and learn the requirements of a mandated reporter.

*Krystal Diel, LMSW-Clinical is the clinical services supervisor at Resilience: Advocates for Ending Violence. Krystal is an experienced trauma therapist and has worked with survivors since 2013 in a variety of settings. As an EMDR clinician and 200-hour certified yoga teacher, Krystal takes a trauma informed and survivor centered approach to meeting survivors' needs.*

6 – 6:45 p.m.

**Dinner in the main dining hall**

6:50 – 9 p.m.

**PATH Intl. Update, Field Test Standards Update and Region 4 Meeting  
Facilitated Networking [PATH Intl. CTRI®, Driving, Vaulting, Admin, DEI and EAL]**

## **Saturday, May 4, 2024**

### **Camp Geneva - Pines Campus**

7 – 8:30 a.m.

**Registration & Welcome**

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

**Breakfast in the main dining hall**

## **Session C**

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

### **C1, Volunteers - Can't Live Without Them! CE**

This presentation will deep dive into program volunteers. Regardless of your role at a PATH Intl. center whether a program director, instructor, or volunteer coordinator, all positions are equally important in keeping volunteers actively engaged in the program.

*Hannah Hayes has worked in the EAS industry for the past 13 years. She has an Associates Degree in Equine Reproduction and Management from Ohio State University and is a current PATH Intl. CTRI®. Hannah currently works at The Achievement Centers for Children - Camp Cheerful in Strongsville Ohio as a full time Volunteer Coordinator/PATH Intl. CTRI®.*

### **C2, Supporting Military Families in Equine-Assisted Services CE**

With an appreciation for each family's unique experience in and post military service, there are consistent experiences for families who engage in military service which include stressors and opportunities for growth, compared to civilian families. Military families deserve targeted support to establish and maintain wellbeing. This presentation will provide an overview of the current research regarding family-focused interventions for military families, inclusive of the research within equine-assisted services focused on military families.

*Leanne Nieforth, MS, PhD has a doctorate in human-animal interaction and is an assistant professor of Human-Animal Interaction at the Center for the Human-Animal Bond at the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine. She has training in multiple models of EAS, and is a PATH Intl. ESMHL. Her research explores human-animal interactions from a multi-modal biopsychosocial approach. She is a member of the PATH Intl. Equine Welfare Committee and the PATH Intl. Equine Services for Heroes Committee and can be reached at [lniefort@purdue.edu](mailto:lniefort@purdue.edu).*

*Aviva Vincent, PhD, LMSW see bio in A1.*

### **C3, The Do's, Don'ts, and Maybe's when Teaching Clients with Seizure Disorders DE**

This presentation will provide information on seizure disorders and teaching considerations for participants with seizure disorders.

**Tamara Homnick, RN** is a PATH Intl. CTRI® and ESMHL and has had the pleasure of working in the EAS industry for over 20 years in various capacities.

**Kim Berggren** has been a lifelong horse person. She has been involved in the EAS industry for over 25 years as an instructor, mentor and consultant. She has traveled across the country and made several trips to other countries helping people develop their skills and programs. She is a Path Intl. Advanced Instructor, CTRI®, ESMHL, Mentor, Advanced Instructor Evaluator and site visitor. She has volunteered in several different roles for PATH Intl., including serving on the Governance committee and the Board of directors. Kim is also a 4-H Horse project leader. Kim loves the outdoors, fishing, playing hockey and photography.

9:30 – 10:45 a.m. **Break and travel to Renew TRC** (allow 25 minutes of driving time)

### **Session D**

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

#### **D1, Hospitality in EAS: A Practice that Moves the Margins DE**

Attendees will learn the latest definitions of disability and ableism, as well innovations in disability studies to think through ways that our industry may unintentionally marginalize people. We will imagine together how we can not only serve people with disabilities well but also be ready to receive their gifts and talents with grace and purpose.

**Ben Conner** is Professor of Practical Theology and Director of the Center for Disability and Ministry at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. He is the author of three books on disability and editor of a series of books focusing on disability and theology. He is a volunteer at Renew Therapeutic Riding Center and is in the process of becoming an Equine Specialist in the Masterson Method.

11:45 – 1 p.m. **Box Lunch and the PATH Intl. Region 4 Awards Ceremony**

### **Session E**

1 – 2 p.m.

#### **E1, The Masterson Method in EAS Settings CR All**

Give a gift to the horses who do so much for us through The Masterson Method. This equine massage technique utilizes gentle touch to access and release tension. Horses participating in EAS activities may internalize a lot of stimulation doing their job, leading to a natural build up mental and physical tension over time, possibly leading to restrictions and discomfort during the work they are asked to do. This simple method can be performed by almost anyone who is willing, benefitting both parties in the process.

**Sophie Wayner** struggled with a highly sensitive fight or flight response since she was small and was enlightened with a diagnosis of autism at 21-years-old and found inspiration connecting her own responses to the responses she observed in her equine friends. She heard about Masterson Method through a friend. After earning her certification as a Masterson Equine Specialist, Sophie began the process of integrating this method into Centenary University's Therapeutic Riding Program where she has been volunteering for over two years. She aims to bring releases of tension and comfort to her school and EAS horses by sharing all she has learned with staff, volunteers, and participants. The Masterson Method is Sophie's passion along with spending time at the barn with her horses Libbie and Andy, pursuing an Animal Health degree at Centenary University, and being a part of Centenary's Intercollegiate Dressage Association as a first level rider.

#### **E2, A Psychotherapy Incorporating Equines Pilot Program and Client Satisfaction CE**

While the research for psychotherapy incorporating equines demonstrates effectiveness in decreasing PTSD symptoms, there is a lack of evidence to verify client satisfaction. This presentation will disseminate the results of a mixed-methods study to evaluate client satisfaction after participating in an eight-week program, including outcome measures used, participant data, program protocol, and client recommendations for future programming.

**Emili Alexander** is a second career occupational therapist with experience in multiple settings and populations, including inpatient psychiatric health and outpatient lymphedema. Emili currently works at the George

Washington University Hospital in Washington D.C. as an OTR/L, CLT (Certified Lymphedema Therapist), and is a CPRP (Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner) through the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association. Emili has plans to continue research in areas of therapy incorporating equines, mental health, and animal-assisted therapy in conjunction with lymphedema treatment. She looks forward to meeting all the like-minded, great EAS professionals at the conference and would love to collaborate on any research opportunities.

**Aubrey Boerema** is the founder and Executive Director of Thriving Tides Therapy (formerly Stony Lake Therapeutic Riding Center). She is a Certified Therapeutic Recreational Specialist, a PATH Intl. CTRI® and an ESMHL candidate. Aubrey is passionate about mental health programming and brings her love of equines and serving people together to provide quality services in rural Michigan.

### **E3, Speech Therapy Incorporating Horses Part 1 CE**

Come to a live demonstration of speech-language pathology therapy sessions incorporating horses! Four clients from RISE Rehabilitation at Renew TRC will attend. A discussion of how their speech therapy goals are addressed in the equine-assisted services environment will be first, followed by a Speech Therapy/Hippotherapy session with Q&A throughout, and finishing with Q&A with the SLPs, horse leaders, volunteers, and parents/families of the clients. You don't want to miss this one-of-a-kind presentation!

**Dr. Beth Macauley** is an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, MI. She received her BA, MA, and PhD from the University of Florida (Go Gators!) with specialization in brain related communication disorders. Dr. Macauley has integrated horses into speech-language pathology clinical services for over 30 years, conducted research in equine assisted services, and taught seminars on equine assisted services in 16 countries. Dr. Macauley is also the owner and lead SLP for RISE Rehabilitation at Renew TRC in Holland, MI.

**Jared Host** is a native Michigander who graduated with a MS in SLP from GVSU in 2014. He began incorporating horses in SLP in August 2023. When not at Renew he works for Coopersville Public Schools or is at home with his dog Gia, or they are adventuring together in the great outdoors.

2 – 2:15 p.m.

**BREAK**

### **Session F**

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

### **F1, Driving in an EAS Program and Making it Financially Viable CR Driving**

A driving lesson is usually 1 or maybe 2 hours, with 1 turnout and 1 student at a time. This session will share multiple ways to have more students and make more money for the program during that 2-hour window.

**Tina Bennett** is the Executive Director for EHRSC. She is a PATH Intl. Driving Level III Instructor, Lead Driving Evaluator, CTRI®, ESMHL and mentor. She is currently the PATH Intl. Region 4 Ambassador and serves on the PICC committee and the Driving Committee. She also works with the MSU Michigan 4-H programs for PEP programs. Her other job is managing a breeding/foaling barn in Freeland, Michigan.

### **F2, Equine Liability Waivers: How They Work and Whether Yours Needs an Overhaul CE**

Courts nationwide have grappled with the meaning of equine activity liability laws – especially their exceptions. Exceptions in the laws are important as they could potentially allow certain lawsuits to proceed. Although all of the equine activity liability acts (referred to as "EALAs") differ, many share common characteristics. This session will explore the ins and outs of what is covered by your center's liability waiver and what you need to be aware of to protect both yourself as a professional and your center.

**Julie Fershtman** is considered to be one of the nation's leading attorneys in the field of equine law. She has successfully tried equine cases before juries in four states. A frequent author and speaker on legal issues, she has written over 400 published articles, four books, and has lectured at seminars, conventions, and conferences in 29 states on issues involving law, liability, risk management and insurance.

### **F3, Speech Therapy Incorporating Horses Part 2 CE**

Continuation of E3.

**Dr. Beth Macauley** see bio in E3.

**Jared Host** see bio in E3.

3:15 – 3:30 p.m.

**BREAK**

## Session G

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

### G1, Eleven Laws of Great Boardmanship CE

Serving on a not-for-profit board can be challenging. Where do you go to learn how to become an effective and fully engaged board member? LOOK NO FURTHER! You will learn the eleven critical characteristics to being a great not-for-profit board member. This will not just be knowledge that you learn, but behaviors that you can take back to your next board meeting.

*Kent Wallace has successfully served over 100 different clients and ministries assisting them in putting their "vision to work" over the last 23 years through Vision Works. From executive coaching to board training and organizational strategic planning, Kent has helped not-for-profits fund more effectively and grow their causes more intentionally. His breadth of experience has also allowed him to serve a variety of clients in multiple industries including camps and conference centers, rescue missions, private schools and universities, as well as organizations serving the disabled, adult foster care, and para-church organizations such-as Love Inc., Youth for Christ and Habitat for Humanity.*

### G2, Equine First Aid CR All

When working with horses, it's not if an emergency will occur - but WHEN. Being prepared to handle these emergencies could be the difference between life or death for our horses, and may even be the reason your center survives a natural disaster. Topics will include, first aid fundamentals, pain detection, treating common conditions, key elements of farm disaster prevention, and preparing for natural disasters.

*Brooke Archer is a PATH Intl. CTRI® and the current PATH Intl. Region 4 Representative. She has been an active horsewoman for most of her life. She recently graduated with a master's degree in nonprofit administration from Notre Dame and keeps herself busy these days working at a vet clinic. Brook was the 2022 PATH Intl. National Credentialed Professional of the Year.*

### G3, The Similarities & Differences between Interactive & Competitive Vaulting Part 1 CR Vaulting

Learn how to teach your participants to dance on horseback through equestrian vaulting!

This presentation will provide a comprehensive overview of both interactive and competitive vaulting as well as get attendees moving through some fun barrel-based activities.

*Amanda Bubb holds PATH Intl. certification as a CTRI®, ESMHL, Level One Driving Instructor, and Interactive Vaulting Instructor. Additionally, she is a PATH Intl. Mentor, Associate Site Visitor, Associate Faculty for Interactive Vaulting certification and currently serves on PATH Intl. Interactive Vaulting Certification Sub-committee.*

*Jane Egger has been involved in competitive vaulting for 40 years as a vaulter, coach, and lunger. She currently serves as the coach of a vaulting team, is the EVUSA Region X Supervisor, and is a member of the Board of Directors for Equestrian Vaulting USA.*

4:30 – 4:45 p.m.

**BREAK**

## Session H

4:45 – 5:45 p.m.

### H1, The Importance of Being the "Equine Interpreter" in the Arena CR All

This session will discuss the importance of consistent awareness & empathy for our equine partners, and how to effectively communicate pertinent observations in-the-moment to participants and volunteers in the arena.

*Kayla Tuinenga has been involved in EAS since 2010, and became an EAS professional in 2016. Teaching hundreds of hours of lessons each year has only fed her enthusiasm for learning & educating! Having made equine- and EAS-related education a personal priority, she is always eager to connect with others in the industry to group-think, problem solve, and learn.*

### H2, Learning by Doing: Interactive Experiences with Equines in EAL CR ESMHL

A brief overview of EAL will be followed by 2-3 activities in a mock EAL group session led by the facilitator to bring value and meaning to the human-horse interactions.

*Melissa Conner is the Executive Director at Renew Therapeutic Riding Center, a PATH Intl. Premiere Accredited Center in Holland, MI. She is a PATH Intl. Advanced Instructor, CTRI® and ESMHL. She is also a Certified Facilitator for EAL Academy. As part of the faculty for PATH Intl., she regularly participates in educational offerings and the development of resources for professionals in EAS.*

### **H3, The Similarities & Differences Between Interactive & Competitive Vaulting Part 2 CR Vaulting**

Continuation of G3.

**Amanda Bubb** see bio in G3.

**Jane Egger** see bio in G3.

6 p.m.           **Silent auction ends. Pickup items at 6:30 p.m.**

6 – 7 p.m.       **Optional networking and snacks at the Renew campfire! Dinner on your own.**

### **Sunday, May 5, 2024**

**Camp Geneva - Pines Campus**

7 – 8 a.m.       **Breakfast in the main dining hall**

### **Session I**

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

#### **I1, Horses as Our Partners CR All**

This session will expand upon the idea that our horses in EAS are partners in the work rather than tools or props to achieve an outcome. Drawing upon the work of Dr. Stephen Peters, equine neurologist, as well as forward-thinking leaders in natural horsemanship, the presenters will make a case for seeing horses through a new and innovative lens as we plan for their care and assign their work.

**Melissa Conner** see bio in H2.

**Ben Conner** see bio in D1.

#### **I2, The Art of Teaching a Group CR Riding**

Discuss some of the challenges of teaching a group, and work through strategies to be successful. Streamlining lesson set-up, being efficient with the mounting process, group teaching considerations, arena set ups, teaching varying skill levels in one group, addressing multiple learning styles, and setting lesson volunteers up well.

**Kayla Tuinenga** see bio in H1.

9:30 – 9:45 a.m.                   **BREAK**

### **Session J**

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

#### **J1, Trauma Informed Care Goes to the Barn DE**

We hear so much about trauma informed care these days. Helping clients in a trauma informed environment, encompasses all areas of the barn and facilities. Small changes in the way we interact can yield big results. This is a practical discussion that will go beyond lingo and theory to give those who are working in PATH Intl. centers hands on tools to take back with them to the barn.

**Natasha (Tasha) Malinchoc-Federinko** has been a PATH Intl. Advanced Instructor since 1994. A lifelong horse woman, after the requisite pony rides, she began riding in second grade, with a wonderful, huge old draft horse named Amos. Honoring ALL the equines who have been her teachers, a picture of Amos from the 60's still hangs in her humble tackroom. Natasha became a mental health professional, specializing in trauma, grief, and loss in 2007. She is passionate about helping people heal through the collaboration of psych education, therapeutic riding, traditional talk therapy, mental health therapy assisted by partnering with equines, and camping programs. She has a small farm in West Michigan, loves her horse (and human) family and is passionately an advocate for agriculture and protecting open spaces!

#### **J2, Nailing the Foundation Grant CE**

Have you ever wondered what foundations are looking for in their grant cycles? Have you ever asked yourself "why didn't we get that grant?" As nonprofit organizations, it is key to know how to find those grants and qualify for them. We will look at what foundations are looking for, common mistakes that can cost you a grant and the importance of developing those relationships.

**Kim Berggren** see bio in C3.



10:45 – 11:00 a.m.

**BREAK**

## **Session K**

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

### **K1, Pony Pals: An Equine Experience for a Unique Population DE**

This presentation will cover the details of a summer camp held for young children who have experienced foster care or adoption. The aim is to educate the audience on the challenges of working with children who have complex trauma needs, to help them to understand the rationale for the structure of Pony Pals programming as it was incorporated at Renew Therapeutic Riding Center, and to inspire other centers to include similar programs utilizing the knowledge and skills they gained by attending this session.

*Emily Hill has a Bachelors of Social Work from George Fox University. She started volunteering at a PATH Intl. center in 2013 and has been employed as a certified therapeutic riding instructor at Renew Therapeutic Riding Center since 2019. Before that, she worked in foster care, meeting with children to help them to understand the process of being in care.*

### **K2, Role of Thoroughbred Horses in EAS CR All**

Many programs consider thoroughbreds particularly suited for equine-assisted services. Yet, misconceptions about the breed and their suitability for working in equine-assisted services abound. This presentation aims to discuss the benefits thoroughbreds provide to the EAS industry as well as explore where and how programs find the thoroughbred horses that join their herds.

*Tia Kocianic, LSW is a PATH Intl. CTRL® who first experienced the joy of sharing her life with horses when she was 9 years old. Her close relationships with her equine friends inspired her desire to share with others the magic of spending time with horses and of riding. Tia is passionate about supporting the journey of children and youth who are creating connected relationships with horses. Tia holds a BA in Psychology and a BS in Therapeutic Horsemanship from Lake Erie College and Masters of Applied Social Sciences from Case Western Reserve University.*

**We look forward to seeing you soon in Michigan!**