General Sample Abstract #1

Abstract:

Funding your center involves revenue streams of many sources – grant writing is one of the easiest ways to fund your center. Learn the basics of grant writing, where to find grants, and get helpful hints from behind the scenes, to help have your grant accepted. The presenter has worked on both sides of the process, as a grant writer and has worked in the industry, reviewing grants to be funded.

Learning Objectives:

The participant will learn:

- how to research grants that can fund their organization.
- how to identify what the grant maker is looking for.
- how to know how much money to ask for.
- how to create a template for a proposal that can be used for multiple grants.
- how to back the grant proposal with data.
- how to write the grant and stand out from the large pool of applicants.

General Sample Abstract #2

Abstract:

Equine Assisted Learning in Academics is a new and emerging field. Learn how educators working with riding instructors and an ESMHL provide visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learning opportunities through actual academic lessons done in the arena, helping kids of all ages, improve their grades at school. Participants will learn how to create their own academic lessons in conjunction with an educator, with the goal of learning about how they could collaborate and implement EAL in Education in their programs, providing a new revenue stream for their center.

Learning Objectives:

The participants will learn:

- how to plan and present an EAL in Education academic program to offer schools in the area.
- how to work with a teacher to create appropriate academic goals and lesson plans for the arena.
- how to create lesson plans to teach an academic skill.

Research Sample Abstract #1

Abstract:

The Nemours Children's Health Assisted Dog and Pony Therapy (ADAPT) program was established as a 3-year implementation science research project in partnership with the University of North Florida. This presentation will focus on the use of the implementation science methodology in program development that facilitates the creation of a living laboratory for future research and establishes evidence-based practices when incorporating animal assisted therapy, including medical and mental health therapies incorporating equines, into the traditional medical healthcare setting.

The World Health Organization promotes use of implementation science methodology in research for new and innovative programing in systems that are often experienced as highly resistant to change such as in educational institutions and medical model healthcare organizations (WHO, 2019). This presentation will provide learners with a foundation in the principles of implementation science research practices and strategies for building collaborations between healthcare organizations, university systems and PATH International EAS programs. Provider education, organization policy and procedure development and approval, developing and executing a research agenda and strategies for funding for new program development are addressed.

Finally, this presentation will present the case study of the ADAPT program implementation into a traditional medical model free standing pediatric specialty care clinic including presentation of findings from the first three IRB approved research projects: Determining Organizational Readiness for Animal-Assisted Therapy Implementation at Nemours (2021); ADAP Pre-pilot Procedure Testing (2021) and the ADAPT Program Evaluation Pilot Study (2022). The layered approach to research and the future research agenda for the ADAPT program will be revealed.

Learning Objectives:

- Develop an awareness and understanding of the implementation science approach to program development and how it leads to sustainable, evidence based and researchable programs.
- Explore means of identifying and developing collaborative partnerships with healthcare organizations, universities, and PATH International Centers to develop dynamic clinical programs.
- Examine competency and standards based formal education needs and opportunities to improve collaborative relationships with multiple layers of medical/mental health providers, educators, researchers, and equine assisted services professionals.

Research Sample Abstract #2

Abstract:

According to the 2020 Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship, International (PATH, Intl.) Fact sheet, PATH Intl. centers reported 6.2 million hours of work donated by 49,705 individual volunteers. Additionally, center employee numbers describe an average staff-to-volunteer ratio of 1:9. It is clear from these numbers that volunteers are the muscle that support client safety and drive program success. Research on animal handler-therapy animal relationships is increasing, particularly in the area of canine-assisted interventions (Clark et al., 2020; Mignot et al., 2022; Rousseau et al., 2020); however, there is a paucity of research conducted with volunteers in Equine-Assisted Services (EAS) programs (St Peter et al., 2021). Therefore, a need exists to gather more information to understand volunteer experiences. In this exploratory survey we sought to 1) describe EAS volunteer characteristics, 2) explore the types of training PATH Intl. Centers provided for these volunteers, 3) understand volunteer perceptions of program horses, and 4) characterize suggestions to improve volunteer safety and efficacy for their various job duties. To accomplish these aims we recruited a convenience sample of 240 volunteer through 25 PATH, Intl centers, representing each geographic region of the United States. Descriptive results indicated that most volunteers fill multiple roles and have horse experience prior to volunteering, and nearly 50% of volunteers help with therapeutic riding. When describing enjoyable equine characteristics, volunteers who led or side walked with horses indicated the most desirable traits to be reliability, confidence, and work ethic. Additionally, participants were asked to identify the presence or absence of negative equine behaviors in nine short video clips, for which 91% correctly identified the behaviors in more than half of the videos. In response to our open-ended questions, volunteers suggested key areas for improvement in training curricula and made recommendations to improve volunteer on-the-job learning and work experiences. During this interactive presentation, the presenters will describe these results in more detail and discuss the relevance of study outcomes for volunteer management, equine welfare, and client safety.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the EAS volunteer population.
- Summarize commonalities in volunteer training programs and volunteer suggestions for improvement.
- Explore the link between volunteer education, training, and equine welfare.