

Optimal Terminology for Services Incorporating Equines Work Group Bios

Kathy Alm began her service as chief executive officer of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) in August 2014. For the previous 16 years she served as executive director of Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center in Woodinville, WA. She grew the previously grassroots organization from a \$280,000 annual operating budget to a professional \$2.1 million organization. Kathy's board service includes the PATH Intl. board from 2005 – 2013, including the office of board president, founder/board member of the Director of Disabilities Organization, board member of the Alliance of Eastside Agencies as well as founder/board member of Theatre Puget Sound. Throughout her tenure in equine-assisted services (EAS), Kathy has served as a PATH Intl. region representative, chaired the PATH Intl. administrators' committee, and presented at numerous regional and annual conferences all over the country. She holds a BA degree from Pacific Lutheran University. Her dedication to the field of equine-assisted activities and therapies spans more than 22 years with a passion that was ignited the moment she walked through the door at her first therapeutic riding center.

Debbie Anderson has been on the cutting edge of the equine-assisted learning (EAL) and therapy industry for over 35 years. Debbie has specialized in creating EAL programs in partnership with schools, corporations and many mental health associations. Debbie is also responsible for co-founding Strides to Success, the first center in the United States to become accredited according to PATH Intl. mental health standards. Debbie has authored many EAL curricula and resources that are considered industry staples as well as served as co-chair on the PATH Intl. EAL committee that created the criteria and guidelines for EAL. In addition to being involved on a program level, Debbie has dedicated her energy to PATH Intl. for the last 25 years, serving on many committees as well as serving on the PATH Intl. Board of Trustees. She also serves as a lead site-visitor. Debbie is a well-known conference presenter, motivator, mentor and facilitator within the EAS industry. Debbie was PATH Intl. certified in 1996 as a therapeutic riding instructor and is also certified as an equine specialist in mental health and learning. Additional certifications include Certified Equine Interaction Professional in Education, Equine Experiential Education Association (E3A) certified corporate trainer, Master HorseWork trainer and is also EAGALA trained. Today, Debbie serves as the founder/executive director at Strides to Success with a mission of spreading knowledge and assisting centers worldwide by promoting best practices within the EAS industry.

Joann Benjamin is a physical therapist and Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist with a pediatric practice in the Los Angeles area. She has a particular interest in words and how we use them, whether writing curriculum for the American Hippotherapy Association, Inc. (AHA), teaching courses, working with USEF and FEI in the para disciplines, or sharing the many benefits of using equine movement with patients. Her membership with PATH Intl. (then NARHA) began 35 years ago. She is a founding and lifetime member of AHA, having served in many roles, and was the AHA Therapist of the Year in 2017. She looks forward to participating in this project.

Michele Kane, Major, USMC (retired) retired from active duty Marine Corps in 2011 and moved from North Carolina to Fort Collins, CO, in order to attend Colorado State University's equine sciences program. During that time, she also completed her master's degree in professional mental health counseling (LPC). Michele learned about therapeutic riding while at CSU and decided to pursue PATH Intl. Therapeutic Riding Instructor certification. She was certified in

December 2013 and hired by Hearts & Horses, Inc., in January 2014, mainly to work with veterans part time. Michele worked for the VA in Fort Collins until she was hired by Hearts & Horses as a full-time instructor and veterans program coordinator in January 2015. In January 2016, she was promoted to program director. She earned her PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning (ESMHL) certification in 2018. Michele spent over 20 years on active duty, was deployed multiple times and brings many years of military experience to the table.

Lissa Pohl holds a master's degree in transformational leadership development. She works in the University of Kentucky's Department of Community & Leadership Development as well as owns her own business—The Engagement Quotient. She has facilitated equine-assisted learning workshops with students, nonprofits and executives across the United States, the United Kingdom, and in Qatar for the Qatar Foundation and HEC Paris Executive Leadership Programs in Doha. In 2012, she conducted research on “The Effectiveness of Equine Guided Leadership Education to Develop Emotional Intelligence in Expert Nurses.”

Lissa is a master trainer for the Equine Experiential Education Association (E3A) and served on the E3A Board of Directors from 2012–2018 with four years as vice president. As a member of the PATH Intl. EAL workgroup (2013-15), she assisted in defining terms and creating guidelines for the practice of EAL. She has been a volunteer at Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center in Seattle, WA, and Central Kentucky Riding for Hope in Lexington, KY.

Lynn Thomas, LCSW, founded and serves as CEO of Eagala, a nonprofit association headquartered in Spanish Fork, Utah. Providing training and certification in the Eagala Model of psychotherapy and personal development incorporating horses, Eagala has over 2,500 certified members in 40 countries, with over 500 programs providing Eagala Model services globally. Lynn received her master's of social work degree from the University of Utah and has over 20 years' experience working with adolescents, families, individuals and groups in various mental health settings. She served as executive director for Aspen Ranch, a residential boarding school for troubled adolescents, where she first developed a program integrating horses as the primary treatment component. After founding Eagala in 1999, Lynn continues to work with an incredible team developing and growing the organization's training program, resources connecting the global network and presence within the mental health community at large.

Wendy Wood is director of research of the Temple Grandin Equine Center (TGEC) and professor of equine sciences and occupational therapy at Colorado State University. As the TGEC's research director, Dr. Wood mentors undergraduate and graduate students (MS and PhD) in research of equine-assisted activities and therapies. Guided by Dr. Wood, these students have partnered with interdisciplinary teams of educators, equine specialists and scientists, health professionals and social scientists to conduct: 1) systematic mapping reviews of literature pertaining to equine-assisted interventions; 2) research of a program of equine-assisted activities for older adults with dementia; 3) and research of equine-assisted occupational therapy for children with autism. Dr. Wood, her collaborators and students have presented their findings at regional, national and international meetings, and also published findings in the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy*, *American Journal of Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias*, and *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disability*.

Dr. Wood serves on the scientific advisory board for Horses and Humans Research Foundation.

Facilitator

Dr. Margaret “Meg” Harrell is the Chief Program Officer at the Bob Woodruff Foundation. She formerly served the Obama Administration as the Executive Director of Force Resiliency, within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, where she was responsible for the offices, policies, oversight, and integrating activities pertaining to sexual assault prevention and response; suicide prevention; diversity, inclusion, and equal opportunity; personnel safety; and for Department of Defense collaboration with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs. Dr. Harrell spent 25 years at the RAND Corporation, where she researched military manpower and personnel, military families’ quality of life, and veterans’ issues. Her research portfolio includes approximately 70 publications. Concurrent with her time at RAND, Dr. Harrell served as a presidential appointee to the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force, 2013-2014. From July 2011 to August 2012, Dr. Harrell served as a Senior Fellow and Director of the Military, Veterans, and Society Program at the Center for a New American Security, where her research focused on military veteran suicide prevention and response, veteran wellness, and veteran employment. She is a prior voting member of the Army Science Board, and has also briefed international audiences, testified before Congress, spoken extensively at conferences and guest lectured at the United States Military Academy. She holds a B.A. with Distinction from the University of Virginia, a M.S. in Systems Analysis and Management from the George Washington University, and a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Virginia, where her dissertation focused on the role expectations for Army spouses.