



Region 5 Conference

August 16-18, 2024

**Hosted by:
Marion Therapeutic Riding Association
Ocala, FL**

PATH Intl. Region 5 welcomes you to an educational and fun weekend with your friends and colleagues in Florida. Your registration fee includes dinner on Friday, lunch and dinner on Saturday and a continental breakfast on Sunday.

CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

Friday
Stone Creek Golf Club
9676 SW 62nd Loop
Ocala, FL 34481

Saturday
College of Central Florida
3001 SW College Road
Ocala, FL 33474

Saturday Evening & Sunday
Marion Therapeutic Riding Assoc.
6850 SE 41st Court
Ocala, FL 34480

LODGING OPTION

Equus Inn
3434 SW College Rd
Ocala, FL 34474
\$115 + tx/night
Reserve by 8/1/24, prices not guaranteed after that date
(352) 854-3200, reference "Path 5 Room Block" or
Reserve [online](#)

PATH INTL. REGION 5 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Online registration will be available June 15, 2024 through August 2, 2024. After August 2, 2024, registration will need to be completed on-site. This conference is in-person only and there is no single day registration.

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

Registration June 15, 2024 through August 2, 2024:

Full Conference \$145 members \$205 non-members

Registration on-site after August 2, 2024:

Full Conference \$195 members \$255 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

Deadline for Full Refund – Request received in PATH Intl. office by **August 2, 2024.**

Deadline for 50% Refund – Request received in PATH Intl. office by **August 18, 2024.**

Individuals who do not submit a written request to PATH Intl. by August 18, 2024, will not receive a refund.

Education:

This conference satisfies up to 13 hours of continuing education requirements.

COVID-19 Information:

Marion Therapeutic Riding Association follows all CDC and state of Florida 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.

AGENDA

All times are Eastern

Friday, August 16, 2024

Stone Creek Golf Club

1 – 5 p.m.

Registration & Welcome

Session A

3 – 4 p.m.

A1, Helping 1,000,000 Horses **CR All**

Dr. Rullan will discuss the importance of equine health in the EAS industry and give listeners immediate tips on how to teach students, riders and participants to detect basic health issues in horses, in such a way that it increases the human-horse bond for everyone.

Dr. Albert J Rullan, DVM, is the founder of Performance Equine Veterinary Sciences. He specializes in treating performance related problems in horses. He is committed to providing accurate diagnoses and the most effective treatments to enhance equine performance. Dr. Rullan received his veterinary degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in 2006. He further honed his skills with an intensive one-year equine internship at Louisiana State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Clinic. His dedication to ongoing learning has taken him around the world, consulting and expanding his expertise in equine rehabilitation, lameness diagnostics and regenerative therapies. Additionally, Dr. Rullan contributes to global equine welfare through his volunteer work with the Equitarian Initiative.

4 – 5 p.m.

A2, Effective Grant Writing: Tools, Tips & Current Trends **CE**

This session is designed to equip participants with practical strategies and insights to enhance their grant proposals' success rates. This comprehensive session will cover grant writing fundamentals including the core components of a compelling grant proposal, defining clear objectives, connecting with the funder, and establishing logic models for each program. It will offer essential tools and resources that help assess the right opportunities to apply for and ways to find new opportunities. Learn proven tips from a seasoned grant writer,

focusing on aligning proposals with funder priorities, crafting persuasive narratives, and avoiding common writing pitfalls. Explore the latest trends in the grant funding environment, including shifts in funding priorities, the increasing emphasis on collaborative projects, and importance of moving beyond activities in proposals. This session is ideal for nonprofit professionals, program staff and grant writers to improve their grant writing proficiency and stay updated on current trends in the field.

Cheri Villa has over 25 years of experience in executive nonprofit management, nonprofit consulting and professional grant writing. While living in northern Virginia, she was an adjunct professor at George Mason University where she taught courses in nonprofit management, the love of philanthropy and the art of grant writing. Since coming to the Community Foundation in 2022, Cheri has conducted intensive workshops on "Grant Writing for Success" which has helped over 140 people gain the skills needed to write competitive applications.

5 – 5:30 p.m.

Break

5:30 – 8 p.m.

Dinner with the PATH Intl. Update and Field Test Standards Update and Region 5 Awards Ceremony

Saturday, August 17, 2024

College of Central Florida

8 – 9 a.m.

Registration & Welcome

Session B

9 – 10 a.m.

B1, How to Create a Rewarding Experience for Non-Verbal and Non-Compliant Individuals DE

Adaptive riding (AR)/therapeutic riding (TR) instructors who work with non-verbal and non-compliant individuals are faced with some unique challenges including ensuring safety and providing effective instruction. While AR/TR can enhance an individual's physical, cognitive and emotional well-being, working with non-verbal and non-compliant individuals, requires knowledge of additional tools. This presentation will offer some practical advice, techniques, and best practices on how to cope with these challenges and create a positive and enjoyable riding experience for both the instructor and the participant. The importance of serving the family, not just the individual rider, by establishing rapport, communication, and cooperation will also be highlighted. Examples of games and activities that can be customized for different abilities and can enhance life skill development, such as decision-making, flexibility, and communication will be shared.

Sara Zurenko, PATH Intl. CTRI®, ESMHL brings over 30 years of equestrian experience in multiple English and Western disciplines and 20 years of experience as a trainer and instructor. She has logged over 5000 hours in the ring as an instructor, developing techniques to work with riders of all abilities. Sara is passionate about developing new instructors and has successfully mentored six people through the PATH Intl. CTRI® and ESMHL certifications. She is the program director and head instructor at Southern Reins Center for Equine Therapy in Collierville, Tennessee, where she oversees the quality and safety of eight different program tracks providing EAS to up to 269 people annually.

B2, Integrating Therapeutic Horsemanship into Inpatient Adolescent Mental Health Treatment CE

This presentation is a case study of the integration of therapeutic horsemanship into inpatient adolescent mental health treatment, emphasizing curriculum development, research integration, and adapting curriculum to that research. This presentation will highlight the importance of research in validating equine-assisted interventions and strategies for building collaborative relationships with mental health facilities. Additionally, the presentation addresses the critical aspects of prepping volunteers with trauma-informed care and mental health group facilitation training to ensure safe and supportive interactions with adolescent participants. Ultimately, attendees will gain practical insights into adapting programs to meet evolving needs and enhancing therapeutic outcomes in inpatient mental health settings.

Lindsey Delgado-Harris, PATH Intl. ESMHL (They/She) has served in multiple roles at Chastain Horse Park where they have been immersed in the transformative power of equines in therapeutic settings. Lindsey is currently pursuing a master's degree in social work, with plans to become a therapist. They are passionate about advancing the field of EAS and promoting holistic wellness for individuals navigating mental health challenges.

B3, Recruiting, Retaining and Developing Your Human Resources CE

Staffing continues to be a challenge throughout the country. Most industries are struggling to find people to fill a variety of roles. It can be particularly challenging in this climate, where unemployment remains low and competition for employees remains high. In addition, many of the roles at your center are specialized, with even fewer qualified people available. This session will share best practices for recruiting, retaining and developing your human resources. Topics will include defining your organization's culture that attracts and retains staff, where and how to recruit, how to build your team and get the right people on the bus, prioritizing competitive wages and staff development opportunities, and employment law considerations. Leave this workshop with next steps for recruiting, retaining and developing your human resources.

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 served as the PATH Intl. board president in the 2010-2012 term, first joining the board of trustees in 2005. She has facilitated numerous workshops and presentations on board, staff, fundraising and strategic planning and enjoys the opportunity to share her experience as well as learn from others. Her dedication to the field of EAS spans over 19 years with a passion that was ignited the moment she walked through the door at her first therapeutic riding center.

B4, The What, Why and How of the CTRI Video Component Part 1 CE

This session will demystify the purpose of the CTRI riding video for both mentees and mentors. Attendees will understand what skills candidates are expected to demonstrate in the video, how to set candidates up for greater success including tips for picking the rider and horse, size of arena, video tools and how to be your own evaluator prior to submission. Candidates will leave this session understanding that the video reflects the ability to teach and understand the application of the aids and their timing as if they were riding themselves. Learn how to prepare the rider with "what, why and how" and verbalizing their effectiveness through specific praise or feedback.

Sandy Webster, PATH Intl. Master Instructor, CTRI, Driving Instructor, Interactive Vaulting Instructor, ESMHL is a CanTRA coach and a Canadian Equestrian Federation Level 2 eventing and dressage coach. She is an enthusiastic instructor of TR, horsemanship, ESMHL, interactive vaulting and carriage driving. She is an evaluator for the PATH Intl. advanced and master instructor certifications. Sandy has attended two Paralympics and three World Championships as the Canadian Paralympic Dressage team coach. After becoming a two-time cancer survivor, Sandy chose to spend the past 17 years building and staffing therapeutic riding centers, mentoring instructors and consulting coast to coast in the United States and beyond. Sandy was awarded the prestigious PATH Intl. James Brady Award in 2012. She spent two years working with the ministry of education in Singapore to create a unique equine-based core value program for pre-teens, which successfully lowered the suicide rate 70%. In 2019, Sandy was awarded the silver buckle "Life Without Barriers Award" for her impact on therapeutic riding programs in northern California. Her passion is helping the EAS industry grow while developing best practices to change people's lives with the help of well-trained volunteers and our best friends, the horse. Sandy is presently the program development director at Chastain Horse Park.

Dennicel Jimenez is a PATH Intl. member and a retired combat veteran currently volunteering at Marion Therapeutic Riding Association while training for her PATH Intl. ESMHL and CTRI certifications.

10 – 10:15 a.m. **Break**

Session C

10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

C1, Groundwork: Capitalizing on the Benefits for Programs and Horses CR All

Partnering with horses on the ground can be the primary method PATH Intl. centers use for delivering EAS to a wide array of participants including Veterans and at-risk youth, as well as community elderly, wellness and corporate leadership programs. This presentation discusses the rationale for groundwork as the foundation of equine-assisted learning (EAL) and psychotherapy incorporating equines programs. Groundwork essentials will be described including activities, benefits, needs, and cautions. Session participants will be able to describe the benefits of groundwork activities in EAS programming, recognize the characteristics of effective equine groundwork partners and the benefits of introducing non-rideable horses to EAS centers, as well as gain ideas for sourcing appropriately evaluated horses from rescue facilities.

Merriam Marshall, PATH Intl. CTRI®, ESMHL is a Stable Moments Instructor and trained in Masterson Method, Natural Lifemanship and completed coursework on equine-human interactions at the University of Denver. She assisted in developing a program funded by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) to evaluate horses in transition for EAS programming, based on equine behavioral standards. In her prior career, Merriam worked as an international economist in the federal government. She also holds a master's degree in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia.

Marilyn Sokoloff, PhD, PATH Intl. ESMHL, Former PATH Intl. TRI is a licensed psychologist and provided psychotherapy incorporating equines as clinical director of HorseMpower, Inc. and Mending Fences. She is past president of EFMHA and was a co-instructor for the PATH Intl. ESMHL certification workshop. Marilyn is a member of the executive committee and treasurer of the Federation of Horses in Education and Therapy International (HETI). She provides educational workshops and training through Unbridled Therapy, has authored articles and chapters and has presented at national and international professional psychology and equine conferences.

Gisella Rhodes, MA, PATH Intl. Advanced Instructor, CTRI, Interactive Vaulting Instructor has a master's degree in education and teaches international workshops for the Federation of Horses in Education and Therapy International (HETI) and is faculty for PATH Intl. workshops/certifications. Gisella served as the executive director for HETI and is currently president of HETI's executive committee. She has authored/co-authored two books and presented at national and international professional equine congresses.

C2, Dressage: A Horse and Human Connection CR All

When using correct, consistent and kind dressage training methods horses will build the correct muscles to carry a rider. This will enable a horse to live a long, healthy and useful life. A horse that is physically strong and mentally happy will be a safe partner for an EAS program.

Chantel Drago, PATH Intl. Advanced Riding Instructor is a lifelong equestrian who got her first pony, Shawnee, at the age of four. She has always been fascinated with the training of horses and her focus is to help them understand what is being asked. Classical dressage training is the foundation for all disciplines of horsemanship.

C3, Beyond the Walls- Finding Freedom Outside The Lines DE

Clinic based therapy has long been the setting for traditional treatment sessions for SLP, PT and OT professionals. Center based therapy has its benefits however, at best, it is two dimensional. At its core, SLP therapy incorporating equines is inherently trans-disciplinary because it influences all systems that support outcomes. Equine movement affects the human body by involving a broad range of physiological systems. Speech and language development is a highly complex hierarchy of multi-systematic integration. Adding therapy incorporating equines into a plan of care blends multi-dimensional movement over time. Why equines? Rationale includes the manipulation of environmental input, the variance of equine motion and neurological impact, the fostering of self-confidence and independence and the social/emotional relationship between the patient and equine. During the discussion participants will learn the basic tenets of SLP therapy incorporating equines, body system involvement, contraindications, equine and tack selection, outcome measures with land-based therapy vs. therapy incorporating equines and integration of speech/language goals in a session.

Jan DiPillo, MA, CCC-SLP, is a PATH Intl. certified therapist currently employed by Advent Health Ocala Pediatric Rehabilitation Center in Ocala, FL. Jan has over 30 years of experience treating pediatric through geriatric patients in both the inpatient and outpatient setting. She has been employed by several health care organizations over the course of her career. In addition, she was instrumental in the development of the autism diagnostic team for early intervention services in Massachusetts. Incorporating equines into speech therapy treatment has always been a goal for her. Advent Health Ocala and Marion Therapeutic Riding Association (MTRA) formed a partnership in 2022 to provide services for speech therapy patients. Jan is the current program manager for therapy incorporating equines at MTRA.

C4, The What, Why and How of the CTRI Video Component Part 2 CE

Continuation of session B4.

11:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Break

Session D

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

D1, Introduction to ASL for Providers Who Work With a Variety of Special Needs DE

Learn the research behind and the benefits of using sign language with a variety of special populations in the pediatric outpatient healthcare system, tailored to include EAS. This course will also provide instruction for and practice with basic signs for communicating wants and needs, as well as concepts and language relevant to

clients and related service providers. By the end of the course, learners will be able to define the term Sign Language, label the three parts of the Sign Language Continuum, and list at least three pediatric populations that benefit from using sign language.

Samantha Fox, SLP has had a passion for working with children who have special needs since she was in elementary school. While completing her undergraduate studies at Ohio State University, Samantha spent over three years researching successful early intervention for children on the autism spectrum. She received a master's degree in 2017 from Ohio University and has since been an active member of her national governing body (ASHA) special interest groups due to her passion for sign language as well as autism spectrum disorder. Prior to working at Fundamental Therapy Solutions, she worked as a contract speech pathologist where she spent most of her time at a school for children with autism while using a total communication approach. Since joining the Fundamental Therapy Solutions team, Samantha has supervised part-time and full-time graduate students, teaches ASL to her colleagues and created and implemented interdisciplinary social groups.

D2, PATH Intl. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives' Impact on our Communities CE

Equines provide a haven for people experiencing marginalization because they are a unifying opportunity to bring us together in the barn. Yet, intentional education and training remains absent, difficult to obtain, or infrequent at best. Though there are limited scholarly publications, racism and non-inclusive practices in the equine industry are prevalent. The significance of horse-human relationships for underrepresented minorities must be centered in our shared efforts. This session is an explicit conversation about diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within EAS and PATH Intl. specifically. While relatively new within the equine industry broadly, and our shared PATH Intl. community, this is an important conversation that includes us all. This session will be led by members of the PATH Intl. DEI committee that is comprised of PATH Intl. members; thus, this is a shared opportunity and challenge. The conversation will review the current action plan, highlight accomplishments, share current efforts and discuss challenges. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, share thoughts and engage in conversation. Resources for continued learning, on-going research and opportunities to get involved will be shared.

Brenda Corujo Orraca (she/her) is a Puerto Rican who grew up on the island and has resided in Florida since 2016 with her two young adult children. She is a PATH Intl. ESMHL and CTRI. Her background in education and communications, along with her passion for the visual arts and horses has guided her work experience. She taught in an education center for diverse abilities in PR. Additionally, she co-founded Grupo Misuko, a program directed towards improving parent-child interaction through visual arts lessons. In Florida, she co-developed, presently manages, and instructs an EAL groundwork-based program for a nonprofit residential foster children group home. Her interest in collaborating with the Path Intl. DEI Committee is inspired by her experiences as a Hispanic woman in the U.S. During her life, she has often sought ways to be part of a group with the initiative to create awareness and change for diverse groups.

Steph Pharr (she/they) is an award-winning artist and Georgia native who has served in the arts and mental health advocacy for over a decade. Her background in the arts, critical psychology and EAS deeply informs her interest in DEI initiatives. Currently, she serves on the DEI committee for PATH Intl. and has recently received a master's degree in psychology with a concentration in neurodiversity. Steph has developed a strong sense of devotion to the nonprofit sector working for initiatives such as Living Walls, Therapeutic Artist Resource and Chastain Horse Park. Currently, Steph is training to become a PATH Intl. CTRI® and is living in Atlanta with her daughter and two goats.

Kathy Alm see bio in session B3.

D3, Occupational Therapy Incorporating Horses for Individuals with Neurological Disorders CE

This session will discuss the "why" of incorporating horses into occupational therapy for those with neurological disorders.

Cara Gilison, OT, AHCBC Certified Therapist utilizes occupational therapy incorporating equines with clients who have a neurological disorder.

D4, Veterans' Equine Group CE

This presentation will introduce those working with equines and veterans to our program and discuss the symptoms of PTSD and moving towards post traumatic growth. In our program, topics are discussed, and veterans engage in topic-related activities with their horses. They then can process their experiences. This is a starting point for self-exploration and to begin to incorporate healthier ways of thinking as veterans develop positive relationships with their horses. Topics include trust and connectivity, building relationships, avoidance,

hypervigilance and hyperarousal vs. relaxed awareness, learning safety, intrusive memories and negative thoughts and mood, finding meaning and post traumatic growth.

Douglas Walker is a life-long equine enthusiast who was born in Florida and has traveled extensively throughout the United States and the world at large. He is a horse trainer who learned the art from Mr. Don Van Ripper of Lander, Wyoming. Doug has trained western wild mustangs as well as registered and grade domestic horses. Doug is a Special Forces combat Veteran and a retired FBI special agent.

Eric Gregorisch, LMFT

12:30 – 1:15 p.m.

Lunch and PATH Intl. Region 5 Update

Session E

1:15 – 2:15 PM

E1, Learning, Helping, Riding CE

Come learn how Saddle Up! took available arena space and previous participants to create a new program with a philosophy of learning, helping and riding. Saddle Up!'s Alumni Transition program is where graduates continue their adaptive riding education and combine it with vocational and job skills to enhance their quality of life and community impact. Participants receive a 1.5-hour lesson that includes grooming, tacking, riding and vocational skills. If growth or new programming is not in your program's future, this session can also provide educational ideas for adaptive/therapeutic riding activities and horsemanship knowledge.

Anne Craig, PATH Intl. CTRI® is a lifelong horseperson who grew up in Oklahoma riding with her grandfather who was a horse whisperer before that was a thing. Her love of kids and horses led her to volunteer in a startup therapeutic riding program in Raleigh, North Carolina, in the 1980s. Later, in Franklin, Tennessee, she got certified as a CHA instructor to teach her granddaughters to ride. In 1998 she found Saddle Up! where she became a volunteer, then an instructor. She is the 2024 PATH Intl. Region 5 Credentialed Professional of the Year.

Lisa Mitchell, PATH Intl. CTRI®, Interactive Vaulting Instructor grew up around horses in western Kentucky. In 2006, after selling the horses and moving to Tennessee, she and her daughter found Saddle Up! They immediately became volunteers and then lesson assistants. Lisa became certified as a PATH Intl. instructor in 2011. With a background in coaching tumbling & competitive cheer, it was natural for her to become a PATH Intl. interactive vaulting instructor in 2019.

Lindsey Wood, PATH Intl. Advanced Instructor, CTRI is the program operations director at Saddle Up! in Franklin, TN. She is a PATH Intl. site visitor, evaluator, and mentor. Lindsey grew up on a small farm in Mt. Juliet, TN. As she got older, she was always passionate about helping people achieve their goals. In 2004, while in college, Lindsey started volunteering at Saddle Up! and realized that she could combine her love for horses and helping others. In her years with Saddle Up!, Lindsey has increased participant numbers, added new programs, and has been instrumental in successful operations. Lindsey is a member of the PATH Intl. riding certification subcommittee. She is very passionate about the EAS industry and loves sharing her knowledge with others.

E2, The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Beyond Basic Etiquette CE

The ADA impacts PATH Intl. facilities, administration, services and the day-to-day operations and interactions with the public and others. Certain PATH Intl. standards require knowledge, compliance and guidance of ADA laws and regulations. This session will help EAS professionals understand the history and reasoning for the ADA and provide a quasi-legal briefing on a few ADA requirements and suggested ADA etiquette in the EAS setting. Because EAS professionals serve a diverse population of all abilities, industry professionals must navigate the ADA's complex requirements from facility design standards to employee/employer relations, to client services. Some risk management practices and techniques will be presented. Participants will learn to recognize and use some ADA terminology and be able to identify and apply etiquette techniques appropriate for ADA compliance. Participants will review the application of appropriate ADA etiquette in potentially awkward situations in the EAS setting.

Deborah Manasco, PATH Intl. CTRI® is licensed to practice law in Alabama and is a lifelong equine enthusiast. She has competed, judged, coached and taught horsemanship in various settings for over 45 years. Before she retired from practicing law, the last 20 years of service were with the Alabama Legislature where she drafted legislative bills and performed legal research and advising duties. After retirement, she obtained certification and taught at a PATH Intl. Member Center for several years. She has served as a PATH Intl. mentor, site visitor and on committees, as well as spoken at various conferences across the country on subjects relating to equine law.

E3, Resiliency and Center Sustainability CE

Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, said: "change is the only constant". Everyone who leads a center providing EAS knows that adaptation to change is an everyday occurrence. Change and growth (not necessarily bigger, but better) are critical to the sustainability of your center. One of the challenges of the pandemic has been the increase in external changes that have an impact on your center operations as well as the people involved.

Kathy Alm see bio in session C4.

E4, Equine Welfare in A Challenging World CE

Gentle Carousel Miniature Therapy Horses is an award-winning nonprofit charity celebrating 27 years of service inside hospitals, hospice programs, assisted living programs, and with families, veterans and first responders who have experienced traumatic events. Gentle Carousel horses were called in to comfort survivors and first responders of the tragedies at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, the tornado survivors of Moore, Oklahoma, victims of the fires in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and families and first responders after the condo collapse in Surfside, Florida. Our goal is to explore the ways we keep the welfare of our horses as our number one priority in unusual and challenging situations.

Debbie Garcia-Bengochea is a bestselling author and award-winning documentary filmmaker. She is also a former elementary school principal. Debbie co-founded Gentle Carousel Miniature Therapy Horses and has served as the education director for 27 years.

2:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Break

Session F

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

F1, What a Disaster: Being Prepared for the Worst CE

Mother nature and mankind are never short on disasters and EAS organizations should be prepared for any and all of them. Saddle Up! has been in operation for over 30 years. With the growing population of Nashville and the geographic location of middle TN, the program has added to and improved emergency disaster planning. Join this session to learn about planning for natural disasters and manmade emergencies. Many resources will be made available and the PATH Intl. standards that are applicable for this type of planning will be referenced.

Lindsey Wood see bio in session E1.

F2, Taking Ground Lessons to the Next Level CR Riding, CR ESMHL

This session will discuss developing practical lesson plans that are effective with measurable outcomes in the barn setting. Learn how an ESMHL links the information obtained from a mental health professional, teacher or counselor's IDP and their initial face-to-face assessment to lesson plans that will develop life skills for different populations. Learn about experiential learning and how to write horsemanship lessons that target social and emotional learning principles. Learn about the five broad, interrelated areas of competence including self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making and how to set up ground lessons to address students' goals and be effectively measured. Scenarios will be given for practical hands-on lesson planning and brainstorming.

Sandy Webster see bio in session B4.

Dennicel Jimenez see bio in session B4.

F3, The Impact of Trauma and Disability Awareness for Students DE

When serving students with disabilities, understanding the intersection of trauma and their specific disabilities can make the difference in connection and providing excellent service. Students with disabilities who are also impacted by trauma may think and behave in ways that are difficult to understand. This can lead to frustration and limiting access to services. Understanding the needs of these students and developing trauma-informed strategies to relate and serve them, can truly make a difference in their lives.

Cindy Lowe, M Ed. is a longtime special educator, currently serving the wonderful students at Hillcrest School in Ocala. She is an owner and counselor at Renewal Counseling and Coaching, specializing in trauma-focused counseling. She has spent her career working to make a difference for exceptional students by providing oversight, training and care to the professionals serving them. Cindy lives in Ocala with her husband, Matt, and has four children, a new daughter-in-law and a tiny dog, Oscar.

5:30 – 8:30 p.m. **Dinner, facilitated networking and hands-on session at MTRA**

Equine Welfare Enhancement Techniques Beyond Taking The Lead CR All (2)

This session will present techniques that provide additional skill sets and increase knowledge on how to better manage horse health, happiness and tolerance while serving as partners in a variety of EAS programs. These techniques can also be taught to volunteers, staff and participants to provide them an effective way to contribute to the horse's wellness and longevity in EAS. Learn how to undo undesirable behaviors in a methodical system of handling horses that helps them be more engaged, trust their volunteers and participants and reduce their stress. The techniques learned will be put into practice through education followed by hands-on practice.

Sandy Webster see bio in session B4.

Dennicel Jimenez see bio in session B4.

Sunday, August 18, 2024

Marion Therapeutic Riding Association

Session G

9 – 11 a.m.

G1, Do You Want to Drive? CR Driving

Therapeutic carriage driving is growing in leaps and bounds and is becoming recognized for its therapeutic value. Using a horse and carriage gives participants an alternative to riding, opening up the world of horses to those who may be unable to ride due to weight, balance, physical limitations, and many other issues. Therapeutic driving is about learning the knowledge of safety, horses, harnessing and driving skills and provides the student with a range of movements and a lot of motor-sensory input.

Betty Gray, PATH Intl. CTRI®, Driving Level 2 Instructor has been professionally training, breeding, managing horse shows and showing Morgan horses for over 50 years. She was a USEF Recognized Morgan judge. Betty is a member of the United Professional Horseman's Association (UPHA), United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) and the American Morgan Horse Association (AMHA). Betty has been involved with EAS since 1983 and opened Stirrups 'n Strides Therapeutic Riding Center in 2006. She became a certified riding instructor in 1997 and a driving instructor in 1999. Betty has over 50 years of driving experience.

Session H

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

H1, Exploring the Senses through Multi-Sensory Immersion DE

Discover the cognitive and physical purposes of incorporating a sensory trail into the equine-assisted activities planned for individuals with autism, ADHD, trauma and other disabilities. These sensory activities are designed to support individual brain development, enhance memory skills, improve problem solving and complex task management, development of fine motor skills through tactile interactions and learning how actions affect one's surroundings. Adding the experience of a sensory trail provides another outlet for individual participants, staff, and volunteers to better understand the physical, social, emotional, cognitive and/or behavioral impacts experienced by individuals with disabilities. In this presentation we will review the design of a sensory trail that allows individuals with disabilities to connect with their surroundings while engaging their five senses – sight, smell, sound, touch, and taste! The purpose of a sensory trail is to promote exploration, problem solving, curiosity, and creativity while improving language skills and motor skills. Learn about what can be included in a sensory trail to engage riders with disabilities in following a trail or path with various textures, turns, slopes or inclines, and natural sights and sounds, while incorporating activities, scavenger hunts, interactive boards or stations that additionally include smells, touch, and taste.

Jenna Rovira, BSW, PATH Intl. CTRI® has more than 15 years in the child welfare industry and working with individuals and families with various challenges. Jenna has been an instructor for five years and is a lifelong horse woman training and starting young horses and riding various disciplines for more than 20 years. Jenna will share insights from case management, therapeutic riding lessons, equine training and careers, family engagement, equine impacts, and more.

We look forward to seeing you soon in Florida!