



# Region 10 Conference

## September 13-15, 2024

**Hosted by:  
CHAPS Equine Assisted Services  
Sheridan, WY**



PATH Intl. Region 10 welcomes you to an educational and fun weekend with your friends and colleagues in Wyoming. Your registration fee includes a pizza party Friday evening and morning pastries and lunch on Saturday.

### CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

#### Friday

**Best Western Sheridan Center**  
612 N Main  
Sheridan, WY 82801

#### Saturday

**Sheridan College**  
1 Whitney Way  
Sheridan, WY 82801

#### Sunday

**CHAPS Equine Assisted Services**  
501 U.S. Highway 14 East  
Sheridan WY 82801

### LODGING

**Best Western Sheridan Center**  
612 N Main  
Sheridan, WY 82801

**Rate:** \$140/Night  
307-674-7421  
307-899-0827 Jim Heath Dir. Of Sales & Mktg.

[Website](#)

### TRANSPORTATION

**Billings- Logan Int'l Airport**  
1901 Terminal Cir  
Billings, MT 59105

**Sheridan County Airport**  
908 W Brundage Lane  
Sheridan, WY 82801

### Sites and Areas of Interest

Little Bighorn National Monument \* Custer National Cemetery \* Last Stand Hill & Memorial \* Don King Museum \* Kings Ropes and Saddlery \* Historic Sheridan Inn

## **PATH INTL. REGION 10 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

Online registration will be available July 5, 2024, through August 30, 2024. After August 30, 2024, registration will need to be completed on-site.

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

### **Registration July 5, 2024 through August 30, 2024:**

Full Conference      \$135 members      \$195 non-members

### **Registration on-site after August 30, 2024:**

Full Conference      \$185 members      \$245 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 **August 30, 2024.**

**Deadline for 50% Refund** – Request received in PATH Intl. office by **September 13, 2024.**

**Individuals who do not submit a written request by September 13, 2024, will not receive a refund.**

### **Education:**

This conference satisfies up to 11.5 hours of continuing education requirements.

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

CHAPS Equine Assisted Services and Sheridan College follow all CDC and state of Wyoming 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 Mountain

### **Friday, September 13, 2024**

Best Western Sheridan Center

3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

**Registration & Welcome**

4 – 5 p.m.

**Tech Support Walk Through for Presenters at Sheridan College**

5 – 6 p.m.

**Henry's Butterfly**

Meet in the hotel lobby for a short walk to see a statue that is the embodiment of a father's love for his autistic son – handcrafted and donated to the Sheridan YMCA.

6 – 8 p.m.

**Pizza Party, PATH Intl. Update and Region 10 Meeting, Field Test Standards Update and Facilitated Networking. Plus showing of short film *Early Light* with Q&A. **CE (.5)****

A 24-hour glimpse into an EAS program where two Wyoming Veterans turn to the healing powers of horses to battle their PTSD.

### **Saturday, September 14, 2024**

Sheridan College

7 – 8 a.m.

**Registration and Pastries**

## **Session A**

8 – 9 a.m.

### **A1, Therapeutic Driving – Who Can Participate? **CR Driving****

Are you thinking of implementing a driving program and wondered if you have clients that will fit into your new program? Do you currently have a driving program and wonder which clients will benefit from driving? This session will explore who can benefit from driving and how to ensure clients are getting the most from the driving program.

**Tracy Shaw** is a lifelong passionate driving instructor who has many years of experience as a PATH Intl. driving instructor. She has worked with many different combinations and breeds of driving horses.

## **A2, Thoughts and Considerations for Starting a Therapy Program Part 1 CE**

This session will provide practical advice for things to consider and put in place prior to starting a program to include therapies incorporating horses. PATH Intl. standards, horses, volunteers, equipment, contracts, facility, team responsibilities, certifications, scheduling, documentation and record keeping will be discussed. Adaptive riding instructors have a lot of skills but it is important to know when situations call for including a therapist. This presentation will look at situations that include physical and intellectual considerations, as well as mental health, for what adaptive riding instructors can manage and when it is important to expand the team.

**Karol Santistevan** is co-founder of Reach 4A Star Riding Academy, a PATH Intl. PAC, and founder of Ropes & Roses Therapy Services. Karol has an associate degree in business administration and accounting from Casper College. She is a certified Special Olympics equestrian coach, a level 2 western & English CHA instructor and a PATH Intl. CTRI® and ESMHL. Karol was awarded the PATH Intl. Region 10 Instructor of the Year in 2007. After much encouragement from students and coworkers, Karol went back to school to complete a master's degree in occupational therapy from the University of North Dakota. Her education, combined with years of experience, and a holistic, nature-based approach allows her to connect deeply with her patients. By getting back to the grassroots of what OT really is, Karol's approach is grounding herself and the horses to engage as a team to support her clients. Her connections with the mental health community run deep and help create wraparound services the community needs.

## **A3, Use of Client Evaluations, Assessments and Data in Mental Health Incorporating Equines Part 1 CE**

This presentation will discuss different types of evaluations that have been successfully administered and utilized in group and individual sessions of mental health incorporating equines sessions at StableStrides. Assessments, implementation considerations and three years of data informed by the assessments will be reviewed. Attendees will learn about additional assessments and evaluations as well as feasibility of implementation in a variety of programming.

**Chester DeAngelis** has been on staff at StableStrides since 2015, with various involvement in all programming. Chester is a PATH Intl. CTRI®, mentor, and ESMHL. As the clinical services director at StableStrides, Chester implemented multiple assessments and evaluations to accurately track both clinical progress and agency data usable for reporting purposes. As an LCSW in the State of Colorado, Chester is passionate about increasing the community's access to quality mental health care and furthering awareness of appropriately incorporating equines into client treatment.

9 – 9:15 a.m. **Break**

## **Session B**

9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

### **B1, Great Business Systems for A Center CE**

McDonalds doesn't have the best hamburger, but they do have the best systems for running a business and are hugely successful. This session will take a page out of the "systems" book and apply it to an EAS center. Attendees will learn systems to automate schedules, invoicing, forms, classes, instructors, operating procedures, and more.

**Jamilyn Anthony** has been a horse lover since she was five, finding ways to be around horses and even buying her own horse at age thirteen. After being told that there was no way to make money in the horse industry, Jamilyn started her career in real estate after college. Once she started her family, she focused her efforts on raising her children. In 1997 her family was in a horrendous car accident leaving her 5-year-old daughter in a coma. The subsequent years of therapy for her daughter helped her to see a whole new world of careers. Once her daughter was 13 and doing well, Jamilyn decided to volunteer at a therapeutic riding center. She totally fell in love with the therapeutic riding classes and horses, and soon became an instructor at that same center. Jamilyn has worked at a few different centers and found that they were not run efficiently so she started her own center and combines her passion for business and marketing with her love for helping people. She made it her goal to run a center that operates like a business with systems, puts clients first and pays instructors a decent wage.

### **B2, Thoughts and Considerations for Starting a Therapy Program Part 2 CE**

Continuation of A2.

### **B3, Use of Client Evaluations, Assessments and Data in Mental Health Incorporating Equines Part 2 CE**

Continuation of A3.

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

**Break**

## **Session C**

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

### **C1, Working with the Visually Impaired DE**

This session will explain that the term legally blind covers a spectrum of different eye and medical conditions and provide examples. It will offer insight on effective communication and understanding of how to work with the legally blind. Orientation and mobility, or how the legally blind ambulate in a sighted world will be discussed. How to offer help, understand boundaries and foster self-advocacy will be shared.

***Aubree Helton** is 32 years old and was born legally blind. She has spoken with schools, community groups and various other organizations and events. Aubree gave a presentation on disability access at Old Sturbridge Village which is a living history museum. She currently is employed at Trail End State Historic Site, and is a participant and volunteer at CHAPS.*

### **C2, Embracing Vaquero Traditions: Enhancing EAS Instruction CR All**

This presentation delves into the integration of vaquero traditions within EAS instruction, offering a nuanced approach to enriching the learning experience for both instructors and participants. Drawing from the rich heritage of Great Basin and California vaquero horsemanship, attendees will explore practical strategies for incorporating traditional techniques, values and perspectives into their lessons. Instructors can enhance their ability to foster meaningful connections between individuals and horses while honoring the cultural legacy of the vaquero tradition. This session provides a valuable opportunity for EAS instructors to expand their pedagogical toolkit and deepen the impact of programs.

***Makenna Pahlke** grew up in Nevada and has long been a student of the vaquero way, as well as actively training and competing in reined cow horse and ranch versatility events. She has been instructing professionally for five years and still has lots to learn. Makenna loves to teach about the rich traditions of classical western horsemanship and how these traditions can benefit not only participants, but horses too.*

### **C3, Survey of Methodology in EAS CE**

This presentation will discuss published International Equine Assisted Learning & Therapy (EAL&T) research conducted by the presenter, as well as current EAS programming, she is involved with in the US. Attendees will learn about the large variation in methodology among EAS programs and the many options available for these programs. Attendees will gain awareness of several types of groundwork and riding EAS program options, which horses may work best for these programs and types of programs that may be beneficial to which client diagnoses. Attendees will learn about a program currently being researched for incarcerated male youth in Montana and discuss specific needs and direction for future EAS research.

***Angela Nelson Wolenez** has a master's degree in education in research methods from the University of Sydney, Australia. Her research dissertation has been published in the peer reviewed journal "Society and Animals" (2015). Angela has over 20 years of experience in education and ten years of experience in EAL. She has worked in Australia, where she started an EAL groundwork and riding program at a large riding school near Sydney. She returned to the US in 2017 to lead an EAL therapeutic groundwork program for residential treatment centers near Los Angeles. In 2022, she moved to Montana and currently works as a secondary science teacher at a youth male correctional facility in Miles City where she also leads the youth EAL program.*

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Lunch and the PATH Intl. Region 10 Awards Ceremony**

## **Session D**

12:30 – 2:30 p.m.

### **D1, Rescued Hearts CE**

Join us for a viewing of *The Miracles, the Mysteries and the Science of Healing with Horses*. After hearing the stories of countless people who have experienced miraculous transformation in the presence of horses, we began to wonder, "Why are horses so healing to humans and what are they here to teach us?" This film will share powerful stories from those who have experienced incredible transformation and those who have dedicated their lives to equine-assisted learning. We will highlight researchers who can speak to why this connection is powerful and share tools to help us access our healing power within. Q & A to follow. Viewing sponsored by CHAPS, Brent Allen Financial Equestrian Group, PATH Intl. Region Speakers Fund and Krisanna and Dana.

**Krisanna Sexton** is an award-winning director with Live Wild Films who is passionate about spreading hope and healing throughout the planet. Although she doesn't have a ton of experience with horses, she believes in sharing alternative modalities for healing and is excited to be on a journey of discovery in the filmmaking process. Her most recent documentary, *Love Heals*, is receiving worldwide acclaim and will be nationally broadcast on PBS in July 2024.

**Dana Croschere** is an award-winning film producer and has spent time over the last fifteen years volunteering at various ranches, immersing herself in the transformative world of EAS and witnessing the healing power that was present in these sacred connections. As she navigated her own healing journey, Dana has always felt drawn to creating a film about the healing power of horses, and "Rescued Hearts" is her dream come true.

2:30 – 2:45 p.m.

**Break**

## **Session E**

2:45 – 3:45 p.m.

### **E1, Understanding Our Veterans CE**

This session offers an in-depth look at the United States Armed Forces and the life experiences that Veterans go through. The unique culture of each military branch and the four types of Veterans will be outlined, as well as the physical and mental health challenges faced in 80 years of wars and military operations. The programs provided by the Department of Veteran Affairs to assist service members with navigating the new challenges of civilian life will be presented. Examples and handouts will be provided for insight into developing new programming to achieve improved health outcomes for Veterans. Additional topics will include why individuals join the service, branch core values, challenges faced in combat theater, military culture, military-to-Veteran transition, eligibility and disability ratings, VA welcome guide, VA healthcare, the VA clinician/nurse communication model, service dogs at a facility and resources for non-equine activities to add to a program.

**Eileen White** is an Air Force Veteran that has volunteered for 14 years in EAS programs at Utah State University and BraveHearts. She holds masters' degrees in both public health and teaching, and is a PATH Intl. ESMHL. She is a licensed secondary science teacher and is employed at the Grand Island VA Medical Center.

### **E2, Sheridan Wyoming Rodeo Wranglers CE**

This session will discuss how drill team patterns can apply to basic riding skills for students with disabilities. Each night of the Sheridan Rodeo, the Wranglers perform three times. The Wranglers are forty girls and forty horses in an arena working together. Composed of intermediate to advanced riders of all ages, the Wranglers include residents of Sheridan and Johnson counties as well as the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservations. An essential component of their practice is desensitizing the Wranglers' horses, provided by the riders themselves, to sights, sounds and other stimuli they may encounter during the rodeo. Pool noodles and exercise balls are used around the horses to ensure they aren't phased by objects in motion. Learn how these practices can aid therapeutic horsemanship lessons.

**Lexie Townsley** is the head coach and vice president of the Sheridan WYO Wranglers and drill team at the Sheridan WYO Rodeo. Lexie and her husband, Kacy, are extensively involved in horsemanship, rodeo, roping and other disciplines and are focused on teaching novice and amateur riders. When she's not herding flag girls, ranching, giving impromptu riding lessons or pretending to be an amateur roper, Lexie is an associate attorney at Oram & Houghton, PLLC practicing mainly in mineral title examination and oil and gas regulatory development. Lexie and Kacy make their home in Sheridan, Wyoming, or wherever the wind might take them.

### **E3, Selecting and Evaluating Horses for Therapy and Adaptive Riding Part 1 CR All**

This session will discuss the Equine Movement Performance Instrument (EMPI) and its application to selecting and evaluating the horses involved in EAS. Attendees will understand both the short-term and long-term benefits of the instrument, its benefits to all aspects of programs and how to implement the use of this instrument at a program. Five years of EMPI results at StableStrides, the training involved in completing an EMPI from the horse's initial evaluation and trial period to annual conditioning plans for each horse will be discussed.

**Chester DeAngelis** see bio in session A3.

3:45 – 4 p.m.

**Break**

## Session F

4 – 5 p.m.

### F1, Moral Injury **DE**

This session will discuss the definition of moral injury and PTSD, how they differ, and the effects of both as the leading causes of Veteran suicide. Learn about the VOA's peer-to-peer program, materials for further reading and learning, and some resources for suicide prevention.

**Cory Schwartz** is the moral injury coordinator with VOA of American Northern Rockies office in Sheridan, Wyoming. Established in 1985, VOA Northern Rockies is fueled by love and compassion, a deeply held belief in human worth and dignity, and an unfailing dedication to the human spirit. Through Corey's work and that of their other moral injury specialists, the results are clear - when you see and work with the potential in everyone, you can accomplish more than anyone thought was possible.

### F2, Attitude, Integrity, Grit and Purpose **CE**

At the heart of the American Frontier, it was the unwritten code of the west that guided the pioneers and cowboys through the challenges of untamed landscapes. The Be Somebody curricula are inspired by the books *Cowboy Ethics* and *Cowboy Values* written by James P. Owen. Learn about this strategy-based program curriculum built around ten principles and eight values (which have been adapted to fit youth learning needs). In an experiential learning setting, through games, activities, writing and discussion, group members seek out and discover the answers to three key questions: What do I believe, why do I believe it and how does my life show it?

**Genie Hensley** brings a lifetime of horse experience from a Wyoming ranching background. She is a CHA level 1 certified instructor, 4-H horse leader, and taught many private lessons. She became a PATH Intl. ESMHL and CTRI and has a degree and licensure as an occupational therapy assistant. Genie enjoys combining the best of both worlds to help people of all abilities overcome their personal challenges and live their lives to the fullest.

### F3, Selecting and Evaluating Horses for Therapy and Adaptive Riding Part 2 **CR All**

Continuation of E3.

**Sunday, Sept 15, 2024**

CHAPS Equine Assisted Services

## Session G

8 – 9 a.m.

### G1, All About the Driving Horse Part 1 **CR Driving**

This session will discuss how driving can benefit the horses' mental and physical health. Hands-on interaction with horses will show how driving allows horses to find their boundaries and the boundaries of participants, and how different driving methods can alleviate some of the limits clients put on horses.

**Tracy Shaw** see bio in session A1.

### G2, Discovering Equine Attunement Part 1 **CR All**

Why is it that when we are with certain people and certain horses we can just "get" them and they in turn "get" us? Attunement is the way to connect at a very high level. Communication is essential in horsemanship and relationship. With attunement one can communicate both effectively and seemingly effortlessly. Unlock super powers in finding attunement in building a better attachment to a horse through exercises that build trust, confidence and loyalty between both and therefore helping a horse be highly successful in all their sessions. Attendees will learn tangible skills to take from the presentation and practice while evaluating, training, conditioning and warming up horses.

**Meggan Hill McQueeney** has a passion for horses that led her to competing, ranching, running various horse operations and coaching. She started two successful therapeutic riding programs and is a PATH Intl. Master Instructor, CTRI, Special Olympics coach, and a USEF Para Olympic coach. As president of BraveHearts Therapeutic Riding and Educational Center, she transformed the organization into the largest horsemanship program for US Military Veterans in the country. Meggan initiated Operation Mustang, BraveHearts Shootout and Trail to Zero, overseeing and riding horseback 20-miles with Veterans and mounted police units, in major cities across the world, to bring an end to Veteran suicide through healing horsemanship. She was inducted in the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in 2024.

9 – 9:15 a.m.

**Break**

## Session H

9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

### H1, All About the Driving Horse Part 2 **CR Driving**

Continuation of G1.

### H2, Discovering Equine Attunement Part 2 **CR All**

Continuation of G2.

10:15 – 10:30 a.m.

**Break**

## Session I

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

### I1, Halters, Bits and Bitless Bridles, Oh My! Part 1 **CR All**

This presentation will cover important elements of fit for the various pieces of tack and equipment we use on the horse's head. Attendees will learn about horse head anatomy and how it relates to bit and halter/bridle fit and how that fit affects the horse's comfort, movement and welfare. Common bit and bridle myths and misunderstandings will also be discussed.

*Sharon Tiraschi is the owner of Kindred Spirit Equine Services based in Denver, CO. She offers several services for horses and their humans, including riding instruction and holistic training, equine performance bodywork, saddle fit evaluation, and bit and bridle fit consultations. She is an independent LANTRA Accredited Bit and Bridle Fit Consultant and has been a PATH Intl. CTRI® since 2005.*

### I2, Building Confidence Through the Obstacles of Life Part 1 **CR All**

Horses and humans have struggles and fears they must face in life. Teaching our horses to be comfortable going through obstacles can help build confidence in the horse and build trust in various settings and environments, along with strengthening the horse and human bond. When incorporating this exercise in a session, the obstacles can be utilized as a metaphor for specific struggles and fears in the client's life. Together the horse and the client can build confidence to work through struggles and fears.

*Sophie Thomas is in training with Remedy Reins to be a PATH Intl. ESMHL and CTRI. She graduated in May 2024 with a bachelor's degree in anthrozoology from Carroll College. She interned at HorseWarriors™ during the summer of 2023. Sophie has always had a passion for helping children and adolescents through the incorporation of animals. During her time at HorseWarriors™, she gained experience working with children and adolescents through the incorporation of horses and art. Sophie also has an associate degree in psychology from San Juan College. Sophie has a goal to one day collaborate with an established business or to start her own providing equine-assisted learning and animal-assisted learning activities to children and adolescents from all backgrounds helping them to become the best version of themselves.*

11:30 – 11:45 a.m.

**BREAK**

## Session J

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

### J1, Halters, Bits and Bitless Bridles, Oh My! Part 2 **CR All**

Continuation of I1.

### J2, Building Confidence Through the Obstacles of Life Part 2 **CR All**

Continuation of I2.

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