Region 11 Conference

April 10-12, 2026

Hosted by:
J.F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center
San Juan Capistrano, California

PATH Intl. Region 11 welcomes you to an educational and fun weekend with your friends and colleagues in California. Your registration fee includes appetizers on Friday and breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday.

CONFERENCE LOCATION

J.F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center
26284 Oso Road
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

LODGING OPTIONS

Best Western Capistrano
27174 Ortega Highway
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
(949) 493-5661
Best Western Capistrano
Rates $199 + Taxes per night
Group ID: 2X3EV9D8
20 Rooms available at this rate
Available 30 days prior to event

Residence Inn
33711 Camino Capistrano
Dana Point, CA 92624
(949)443-3600
Residence Inn

Hilton Garden Inn
34402 Pacific Coast Highway
Dana Point, CA 92629
Call (949) 661-1100
Hilton Garden Inn
Rates $233 + Taxes per night
Group ID: wrultm
10 Rooms available at this rate
Must be booked by 3/13/26

Inn at the Mission San Juan Capistrano
26907 Old Mission Rd.
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
(949)503-5700
Inn at the Mission San Juan Capistrano

PATH INTL. REGION 11 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Online registration will be available January 30, 2026, through March 27, 2026. After March 27, 2026, 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 January 30, 2026, through March 27, 2026:

Full Conference	$155 members	$225 non-members

Registration on-site after March 27, 2026:

Full Conference	$215 members	$285 non-members

Pre-Conference Registration January 30, 2026, through March 27, 2026*:

$100 members $150 non-members Register Here

***There is no onsite registration available and no refunds after March 27, 2026.**

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 **March 27, 2026.**
Deadline for 50% Refund – Request received in PATH Intl. office by **April 12, 2026**.

Individuals who do not submit a written request to PATH Intl. by April 12, 2026, will not receive a refund.

Education:

This conference satisfies up to **11** hours of continuing education requirements. The preconference is an additional **4** hours.

AGENDA

All times are Pacific Standard Time

Pre-Conference
Friday, April 10, 2026

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Early Conference Registration for Pre-Conference Attendees Only
8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	**Equine Rescue Training for First Responders CE**
Register Here	*Featuring Orange County Fire Authority Firefighters*

This pre-conference workshop offers a unique experience showcasing how The Shea Center trains firefighter first responder teams to enhance their skills during equine rescue emergencies. Participants will receive a copy of The Shea Center's curriculum, observe multi-station training and engage in discussion with staff and participants. Lunch is provided.

Conference
Friday, April 10, 2026

3 – 5 p.m.	**Registration**
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	**Welcome/Open House and Happy Hour** Join us for appetizers and tour The Shea Center facility.
6 – 7 p.m.	**Facilitated Networking Session** Join your peers for appetizers and discussion tables with a variety of topics.

Saturday, April 11, 2026

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	**Registration & Welcome** Breakfast & Coffee/Tea

Session A

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

A1, The Board Panel – Discussions about Growth, Leadership and Turning Crisis into Opportunity CE

The Shea Center has experienced tremendous growth in the past 25+ years. Board leadership, combined with expert staff, has been a major key to exceptional growth and expansion. This session is a highlight of outstanding leaders sharing insights and stories that helped The Shea Center grow and are components of growth for any organization.

Dana Butler-Moburg *is a 40-year nonprofit executive who has a specialty in fundraising, board development and organizational management. She is also a horsewoman and a PATH Intl. CTRI®. During her 28 years with The Shea Center, it has grown to an $8.2 million organization.*

9:30 – 9:45 a.m. **BREAK**

Session B

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

B1, Drive to Ride: The Engine Behind Effective Peer-to-Peer Fundraising CE

Learn how to build a successful online peer-to-peer pledge/sponsorship campaign by inspiring clients, volunteers and staff through story telling.

Sonya Violette *has been a Shea Center staff member for 20 years. Her first four years were with the program team as a PATH Intl. CTRI®. She joined the development team 16 years ago and developed the Drive to Ride program. She is currently a major gifts officer with The Shea Center.*

Kristiana Gingras *has been a Shea Center staff member for two years. She began as the events manager and is now working on the development team as a donor relations manager. She helps support the efforts of the Drive to Ride campaign.*

B2, The Steady Horse Clinic CR All

Horses are central to the success of EAS, contributing to participants' cognitive, physical, and social–behavioral outcomes. This session provides a hands-on learning experience focused on preparing horses for EAS work. Attendees will learn to assess temperament and training needs, apply foundational riding principles to equine handling, and develop strategies that support horses in understanding and succeeding in their EAS roles. This session includes observation and interaction with a variety of equine partners. The first ten attendees will also receive a complimentary set of The Shea Center's Training Flashcards.

Alex Johnson, PATH Intl. ATRI *is a USEF/USDF professional rider and an APHA professional horseman. She has been working in the EAS industry for fifteen years. Alex combines her love of education and horses to create curricula for trainers and instructors internationally.*

B3, Best Practices in Caring for the EAS Horse CR All

Dr. Markell has been caring for The Shea Center's horses, for free, for the past 26 years. His leadership, dedication and knowledge have informed all the horse care decisions made at The Shea Center. "The EAS equine athlete has a job that is demanding and requires that we provide not just the right medical care, but the right environment for their longevity and happiness," says Dr. Markell. A popular speaker, Dr. Markell is a passionate educator and advocate for the EAS industry.

Dr. Richard Markell, DVM, MCRVS, MBA, *Dr. Richard Markell is a mission-driven key opinion leader, business and science entrepreneur, experienced DVM and MBA consultant in the animal health industry including veterinary clinical practice, pharmaceutical, educational and medical device sectors. A 1985 graduate (DVM) of the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine and 2019 graduate (MBA) of the University of California San Diego Rady School of Management, he is the CEO of IlluminX Consulting. He served as one of the United States Olympic Equestrian Team Veterinarians (2013-2017). He has lectured and been a panelist at over 15 American Association of Equine Practitioners Annual Conventions. He is often an instructor for continuing education courses for equine sports medicine, lameness, imaging, and ultrasound. Dr. Markell lives in Encinitas, CA at the beach with his wife and Andy (a rescue dog that may be a Swedish Danish Farm Dog ... or perhaps a mutt!). His adult son also rides...German racing bicycles!*

10:45 – 11 a.m. **BREAK**

Session C

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

C1, Developing Safe and Sustainable Weight Limit Guidelines CR Riding

As equine-assisted services expand to include more adult participants, programs must adapt horse selection, tack and service pathways to ensure safety and equine welfare. This session highlights a quality-improvement initiative at The Shea Center that implemented a structured, evidence-informed protocol for pairing clients—classified as balanced or unbalanced, with horses using inclusive weight limits and equine movement analysis. An electronic tracking system supports ongoing monitoring, and alternative programming options are utilized when mounted participation is not appropriate. Practical tools and lessons learned will be shared.

Randi Shanahan, DPT, HPCS, *is the therapy services manager at The Shea Center. She is a licensed Doctor of Physical Therapy and holds certifications as an AHCB hippotherapy clinical specialist and PATH Intl. CTRI®. She's been involved in EAS since 2009.*

Shari Masline, PATH Intl. ATRI, *is the adaptive riding development manager at The Shea Center. She is a PATH Intl. advanced instructor and a certified personal trainer through the American College of Sports Medicine. She has worked within the EAS industry since 2011.*

C2, Effective Strategies for Rider Progression in Adaptive Riding CR Riding

This session explores how to effectively progress riders in adaptive riding, focusing on how instructors can assess skills, respond to what they observe, and advance riders safely and purposefully. Attendees will learn to identify readiness for advancement and adapt instructions to meet diverse needs. Learning objectives include defining rider progression and applying strategies to support ongoing skill development.

Sarina Dalton, PATH Intl. ATRI, *is an instructor at The Shea Center. With extensive experience teaching riders of all ages and abilities, she is dedicated to promoting safe and effective progression in adaptive riding lessons. Sarina is passionate about empowering both riders and fellow instructors through individualized instruction and adaptive teaching strategies.*

C3, Best Practices in Caring for the EAS Horse CR All

Repeat of session B3.

12 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch and The Rider Panel CE**

Featuring a few of The Shea Center's participants.

Session D

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

D1, Practical Tactics for Improving Your Business Systems and Reporting CE

As an EAS program grows, ensuring business infrastructure can grow with the program is key to the sustainability of a program. Join this session to evaluate where business systems are serving your program well and take-home actionable strategies to take your program to the next level.

Wallace Chan, CPA, CGMA, MBA, *began his career in the private sector as an accountant. With a degree in accounting and an MBA, he spent most of his career in oil and gas. A lifelong volunteer, he served on The Shea Center's finance committee for 10 years as well as volunteering with the Optimist Club for 25 years as a youth basketball coach and serving as president and treasurer. After retiring from the private sector, he joined The Shea Center eleven years ago as the COO.*

Melissa Strodtbeck, MBA, *is a finance leader with deep experience across corporate and nonprofit sectors. She holds an MBA in finance and marketing from the University of Chicago and began her career in accounting at IBM. She had an extensive tenure in corporate finance at Frito-Lay, where she specialized in budgeting and performance management. She transitioned to the nonprofit world and currently serves as controller at The Shea Center, a role she has held for the past five years, where a lifelong love for horses made Shea a perfect fit for applying her business skills in support of a mission she is deeply passionate about.*

D2, Integrating Intentional Silence into Adaptive Riding Lessons CR Riding

In adaptive riding, communication is often emphasized through spoken instruction, yet intentional silence can be just as powerful. This presentation explores how purposeful quiet within a lesson enhances learning, regulation, connection and communication for participants, instructors, volunteers and horses. This session will highlight practical strategies for incorporating silence into lesson plans, discuss common challenges and misconceptions, and present real-world examples of how quiet moments can elevate therapeutic outcomes. Attendees will leave with tools to use silence as an intentional instructional technique that strengthens partnerships and enriches the adaptive riding experience for all.

Jen McWherter, PATH Intl. CTRI®, ESMHL, *has been a PATH Intl. CTRI® for more than two decades and serves as head instructor at Giant Steps Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Petaluma, CA. With extensive experience in intake, scheduling and program development, she focuses on creating clear, compassionate systems for managing high-demand programs.*

Sue Rickard, PATH Intl CTRI®, ESMHL, *has been an instructor and volunteer at Giant Steps Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Petaluma, California since 2014. She was a high school teacher in the UK from 2005-2013, and is also a PATH Intl. mentor.*

D3, Developing A Horse's Postural Control Through Long-Line Lunging CR All

This practical in-arena session will explore long-line lunging as a foundational training technique in equine development and fitness. This session highlights how long-line lunging improves balance, suppleness, rhythm, and responsiveness without rider weight, while allowing observation of natural movement and biomechanics. Attendees will learn how effective groundwork enhances communication, builds trust and supports correct muscle development, reinforcing the connection between training on the ground and performance under saddle.

Judy Westlake *is a United States Dressage Federation (USDF) Bronze, Silver and Gold medalist and USDF Certified Instructor. She has trained multiple horses and riders to Grand Prix dressage, along with winning local, regional and national awards. She has worked with The Shea Center and its horses for over 25 years. She has a degree in animal science from the University of Rhode Island, is one of only 20 certified Balimo instructors worldwide, and has served as faculty at Johnson & Wales University as an instructor in the equine business management program.*

2:30 – 2:45 p.m. **BREAK**

Session E

2:45 – 3:45 p.m.

E1, Teaching Individuals with ASD: Tools for Sensory Needs and Beyond DE

This session explores practical strategies to support individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) in safely participating in EAS. Attendees will learn to recognize common sensory processing differences, distinguish sensory-based responses from behavioral reactions, and apply research-informed tools and adaptations to improve safety, engagement and participation in EAS sessions.

Dr. Melissa Braun, OTD, OTR/L, ASDCS, PATH Intl. CTRI®, PATH Intl. Registered Therapist, *is an occupational therapist who has been providing occupational therapy including horses at The Shea Center since 2021. She has been working and volunteering with individuals with disabilities with and without the benefit of horses for over 13 years. Dr. Braun recently completed certification coursework to become an ASD clinical specialist, helping further her understanding of the importance of meeting sensory needs when working with and supporting individuals with ASD.*

Jennifer Lee, MSOT, OTR/L, ASDCS, PATH Intl. CTRI® *is an occupational therapist who has been providing occupational therapy including horses at The Shea Center since 2019. She began her EAS journey by volunteering as a teenager assisting in therapy and riding lessons for individuals with disabilities before returning as an occupational therapy graduate student and now therapist. She recently completed certification coursework to become an ASD clinical specialist developing deeper understandings of working with and assisting individuals with ASD.*

Karen Yamasaki, OTR/L, ASDCS, PATH Intl. CTRI® *is an occupational therapist with over 25 years in the field and over 13 years' experience providing occupational therapy including horses at The Shea Center. She has worked as an occupational therapist in a variety of settings and blends her past experiences into the EAS field to maximize the outcomes of the individuals she works with. She recently completed certification coursework to become an ASD clinical specialist developing deeper understandings of working with and assisting individuals with ASD.*

E2, Apprenticeship and Alternative Certification for a Therapeutic Riding Instructor CE

This session highlights The Circle of Horses Therapeutic Riding Instructor Apprenticeship Program, a federally and California-approved workforce training model. Open to individuals ages 16 and older, the paid, hands-on apprenticeship prepares participants for certification through structured instruction led by certified instructors, combining intensive practical training with approximately 150 hours of related coursework in horsemanship, adaptive teaching, safety and lesson planning.

Barbara E. Auerbach, J.D, PATH Intl. CTRI® *is a retired attorney and PATH Intl. CTRI®. She was a supervising attorney in the Los Angeles County children's court, specializing in issues relating to children and families in family law, dependency, delinquency, juvenile justice, probate, civil and adoption courts. She has spent many years attending Individual Educational Programs (IEP's) for children with disabilities. She also has a degree in speech pathology and audiology. She has trained judges, attorneys, parents, social workers, foster parents and others to advocate for children and adults with special needs. She has lectured as an expert in fetal alcohol syndrome. Currently she is the executive director of The Circle of Horses, a nonprofit, community-based horse-riding program for individuals with disabilities or individuals who would benefit emotionally, physically or socially.*

E3, Developing A Horse's Postural Control Through Long-Line Lunging CR All
Repeat of Session D3.

3:45 – 4 p.m. **BREAK**

Session F

4 – 5 p.m.

F1, Equine Therapeutic Exercise Programs for Welfare, Longevity and Performance CR All
This session explores evidence-based techniques to support equine partners in EAS, focusing on their physiological needs and welfare. Participants will learn how handlers and riders impact horses, apply therapeutic exercises and tools, review research-based practices, and implement strategies to promote equine longevity, soundness, and overall well-being.

Dr. Robyn Wyzinski, PT, DPT, HPCS, CERP *has been a physical therapist for 24 years, participating in EAS programs throughout her career. In 2015, she became a certified equine rehabilitation practitioner through the University of Tennessee Veterinary Medical School. In 2018, she became a hippotherapy clinical specialist through the American Hippotherapy Association. Robyn's passion is supporting both horse and rider through evidence based physical therapy. She currently works for The Shea Center as a physical therapist for the hippotherapy program and supports the welfare of the horses.*

F2, Creating, Implementing and Executing a Psychotherapy Program Incorporating Equines DE
Learn how to design and deliver psychotherapy programs incorporating equines that support individuals with mental health conditions such as trauma, anxiety, depression, and neurodevelopmental differences. Using The Shea Center as a model, this session covers integrating evidence-based therapeutic interventions with safe horsemanship, applying PATH Intl. standards, assessing community needs, and creating accessible, clinically effective equine experiences for diverse clients.

Leeanna Rice, MSW, LCSW, PATH Intl. CTRI®, ESMHL, *is the mental health clinician and coordinator at The Shea Center. A licensed clinical social worker since 2017, she has clinical experience across inpatient, outpatient and private practice settings. Leeanna founded The Shea Center's mental health program in 2021, integrating clinical expertise with horsemanship to create safe, effective services, including programs for military personnel and veterans.*

F3, Enhancing the Client Experience in EAS through Partnership with a Facility Dog CE
This session explores the integration of a facility dog into EAS to enhance therapeutic engagement, emotional regulation and skill development. Through demonstrations with Tex, a canine companion–trained facility dog, attendees will see practical applications for motor, social and emotional skills, learn the process for obtaining and training a facility dog, and discover strategies to ethically and effectively incorporate a dog into EAS sessions.

Matt Mitchell, PT, DPT, HPCS, PATH Intl. CTRI®, *is a physical therapist at The Shea Center. He received his Doctor of Physical Therapy from the University of Southern California in 2018. He began his career at The Shea Center where he regularly incorporates physical therapy incorporating equines in his treatment plans with clients of all ages and diagnoses. Matt became a hippotherapy clinical specialist in 2021. He is highly involved with the American Hippotherapy Association. Matt currently serves on the board of directors for AHA, Inc., and he is/was the chairperson of the 2026 and 2024 AHA, Inc. international conferences. Matt is a certified handler of the canine companions facility dog, Tex. Matt partners with Tex to provide innovative PT treatment, interact with volunteers and donors, and boost staff morale at The Shea Center.*

6 p.m. **Dinner on your own. OR**
Optional Dinner for Executive Directors – Executive Leadership Forum
Leaders of EAS organizations are invited to visit informally with each other and have facilitated topics with Dana Butler-Moburg and selected experts. Attendees will cover the cost of their own dinner.

Sunday, April 12, 2026

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. **Breakfast and the PATH Intl. Region 11 Meeting**

Session G

8:30 – 10:45 a.m.
(Break 9:30 – 9:45 a.m.)

G1, Plan for Success: A Discussion About Growth and Abundance CE

How to get "there" from here. What is "there?" This session will help attendees assess where they are in their EAS center's journey and what/where to focus on next to build success for the organization. This is an interactive conversation that will help attendees leave with a plan of action.

Kathy Alm *began her service as chief executive officer of PATH Intl. in August 2014 and retired in January 2026. For the previous 16 years she served as executive director of Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center in Woodinville, WA. She grew the previous 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 EAS center.*

Dana Butler-Moburg *see bio in Session A1.*

G2, When Movement Becomes Medicine: Applied Biomechanics in EAS CR All

This session addresses the biomechanics and postural health of horses in EAS. Participants will learn to identify compensatory postures that compromise movement and welfare, apply alignment and conditioning strategies to promote self-carriage and dynamic stability, and use practical screening tools to protect both equine soundness and client safety. Actionable techniques will support the longevity, comfort and effectiveness of horses in EAS environments.

Janelle Robinson, PT, HPCS, PATH Intl. ATRI, *is the chief program officer and licensed physical therapist at The Shea Center. As a PATH Intl. advanced instructor, hippotherapy clinical specialist, certified BALIMO® instructor, and APTA certified clinical instructor, she integrates evidence-based rehabilitation with equitation principles to protect horse welfare and optimize rider outcomes. Janelle holds a USDF bronze medal and has presented on program quality and clinical measures in EAS. Her work focuses on sustainable horse-human biomechanics, staff development and data-driven practice. She has worked within EAS for over 25 years.*

Randi Shannahan, PT, DPT, HPCS, *see bio in session C1.*

10:45 – 11 a.m. **BREAK**

Session H

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

H1, Take Your Fundraising Program to the Next Level Part 1 CE

Successful fundraising fuels programmatic growth and success. This session applies to centers at all levels of fundraising success as the principles remain the same but are applied differently. Attendees will leave with practical next steps to help strengthen current fundraising practices or build out opportunities for fundraising success.

Claudia A Looney, FAHP, CFRE, *is the founder and current principal and managing director of Covenant Philanthropic Solutions, a firm she launched in 2008, with her fundraiser husband James Looney. Today, Covenant is a leading fundraising consulting and management firm with partnerships that cover all sectors of the nonprofit industry and major parts of the globe. Claudia's passion for the world of nonprofit development and management has inspired her to dedicate the past 50 years to helping organizations fulfill their missions. She has been a mentor and consultant to The Shea Center for several years.*

H2, Empower, Equip and Engage Volunteers CE
When we empower and equip our volunteers with the right tools, we set them up to engage effectively with our participants, clients, herd and staff. Volunteers make up 90% of our workforce and giving them the training they need to grow and thrive in a fast-paced ever-changing environment is essential to building a strong, successful volunteer team. This session will cover available volunteer roles, the training process, opportunities for continued growth, and how volunteers can advance within their roles.

Michele Hurd *is the volunteer services manager at The Shea Center. Over the past few years, she has focused on improving and streamlining the volunteer training process, resulting in increased volunteer participation and retention. Our volunteers are the driving force behind our mission, and we are fortunate to work alongside each of them, supporting their growth and development as volunteers.*

H3, Therapeutic Understanding of Proper Foot Balance for the EAS Horse CR All
Most programs rely on donated horses who may come with challenges in soundness for a sport horse. Having a relationship with a high caliber farrier can bridge the gap ensuring long term mechanical advantage, soundness and happiness of your herd. Attendees will learn the mechanics of proper balance and function and how the static and dynamic world relates to horses.

Vic Sebring *is a journeyman farrier, expert teacher and mentor with 37 years of experience with evidenced-based shoeing. He specializes in lameness and sport horses and has been a trusted partner ensuring herd foot health for The Shea Center for 28 years.*

12 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch and the PATH Intl. Update and Field Test Standards Hearing/Update**

Session I

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
I1, Take Your Fundraising Program to the Next Level Part 2 CE
Continuation of Session H1.

I2, Build Your Major Gifts Program CE
While many EAS programs rely on fees and events for revenue, a strong fundraising program must include a major gifts program. These gifts are renewable, not dependent on an event and help grow donor partners into other types of giving. This session will give attendees the key components to start or strengthen a major gifts program.

Holly Hadden, MBA, *joined The Shea Center in September 2025, after a 26-year career in fundraising at leading academic institutions, including the University of Chicago Medical Center and Stanford University. She brings deep expertise in translating best practices from large institutional advancement programs into effective, relationship-centered fundraising strategies for community-based nonprofits. She is the chief philanthropy officer at The Shea Center.*

I3, Stirrups, Skills and Student Success: What OT Partnerships Make Possible DE
REINS Therapeutic Riding Center's OT-focused university partnership model strengthens EAS and enhances inclusive, adaptive riding instruction for individuals with physical and intellectual disabilities. Using a dual-mentor model, occupational therapy faculty support the development of students' clinical reasoning related to diagnosis-specific needs, safety, and meaningful participation, while REINS professionals provide mentorship in adaptive instruction, leadership and program development. Attendees will learn how collaborative mentorship and longitudinal fieldwork and capstone experiences support high-quality, disability-responsive programming. Case examples illustrate how OT-informed strategies have enhanced access, safety and engagement in riding sessions for individuals with Down Syndrome and Cerebral Palsy by addressing postural control, motor planning, sensory processing differences, communication supports and fatigue management. The session also highlights OT-led caregiver programming through CARES, which incorporates mindfulness-based, occupation-centered strategies to support self-regulation, stress management and sustained participation in caregiving roles. Attendees will learn how occupational therapists coach instructors to integrate activity analysis, task grading, adaptive equipment, environmental modifications, and mindfulness-informed co-regulation strategies that promote autonomy, dignity and participation for people with disabilities.

Allison Solander *is director of partnerships and engagement at REINS, where she turns collaborations into meaningful programs. With a bachelor's in biological sciences from USC and over a decade of therapeutic riding experience, she is passionate about building effective programs, mentoring future EAS practitioners and getting in the saddle whenever possible.*

Dr. Joanna Seber *is core faculty in the OTD Program at Southern California University of Health Sciences, teaching human development, neuroscience and pediatric practice. Her work focuses on client-centered assessment and pediatric mental health, guided by the model of human occupation and the intentional relationship model.*

Rekha Todker-Sulkar *is a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant (COTA/L) with nine years of pediatric experience. She completed her Doctorate in OT, including fieldwork and a capstone at REINS, where she created a nature-based program integrating mindfulness to support emotional regulation, social participation and well-being. Rekha continues to advocate for family-centered, non-traditional OT programs that empower children, adolescents and adults.*

I4, Do No Harm: The Painful Truth About Saddle Fitting CR Riding
This session will explore the importance of proper saddle fit in promoting a horse's comfort, movement, and performance. Attendees will learn how changes in a horse's body due to growth, training, or rest affect saddle fit, and how to evaluate, adjust, and maintain balance, including for asymmetrical horses. The session emphasizes recognizing signs of poor fit and applying techniques to support both horse and rider.

Damien Pichardo *began riding at age six and competed across English, Western, and rodeo disciplines. He toured internationally for 20 years performing trick and roman riding in shows including Cavalia, the Calgary Stampede and Tournament of Kings. His focus later shifted to liberty work and classical dressage, leading him to train with the Art2Ride team in San Diego, where he mastered classical foundation training and saddle fitting.*

2:30 – 2:45 p.m. **BREAK**

Session J
2:45 – 3:45 p.m.
J1, Facilitated Networking Session

J2, Executive Leadership Forum
Wrap up discussions with Dana Butler-Moburg.

We look forward to seeing you soon in California!