



Region 4 Conference

May 1-3, 2026

Hosted by:
Renew Therapeutic Riding Center
Holland, Michigan

PATH Intl. Region 4 welcomes you to an educational and fun weekend with your friends and colleagues in Michigan. Your registration fee includes dinner on Friday, breakfast and lunch on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. *This conference is in-person only and there is no single-day registration.*

CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

Pre-Con. Fri. a.m., Fri. p.m., Sat. a.m. & Sun. sessions

Camp Geneva & Retreat Center

3995 Lakeshore Drive N, Holland, MI 49424

<https://campgeneva.org>

25-minute drive from Renew

Pre-Con. Thurs. & Fri. a.m. and Sat. p.m. sessions

Renew Therapeutic Riding Center

5080 146th Avenue, Holland, MI 49423

<https://renewtrc.org>

25-minute drive from Camp Geneva

INCLUDED LODGING

Camp Geneva & Retreat Center

3995 Lakeshore Drive N, Holland, MI 49424

We will be lodging on the Pines Campus at Camp Geneva, adjacent to beautiful Lake Michigan. Lodging is in cabins of 8 beds; each cabin has its own bathroom and lounge. Attendees are responsible for bringing bedding or a sleeping bag, plus a bath towel and toiletries. **Please note that lodging will not be available for onsite registration.** The opportunity to lodge onsite must be chosen when you register and it will close 4/17/2026 - no exceptions. Housing questions and requests can be directed to conferencehousing@renewtrc.org. We will make every effort to accommodate your requests.

If you plan to come for the Pre-Conference and require lodging for the night before (April 30), limited lodging is available at Camp Geneva at a cost of \$25. No camp meals are available for Thursday, April 30 or the morning of May 1. *All Camp Geneva lodging details will be provided for guests as the conference nears.*

OTHER LODGING

Available on your own. Due to the start of the Tulip Time Festival on the same weekend, be aware that lodging options may be more expensive and will be limited throughout the area.

Springhill Suites Hotel

3084 W. Shore Drive, Holland, MI 49424

(616) 399-2500

Homewood Suites by Hilton

625 South Point Hotel Dr, Holland, MI 49423

(616) 795-0134

PATH INTL. REGION 4 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Online registration will be available February 20, 2026, through April 17, 2026. After April 17, 2026, registration will need to be completed on-site. *This conference is in-person only and there is no single-day registration available.*

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

Registration February 20, 2026, through April 17, 2026:

Full Conference w/lodging and meals	\$290 members	\$360 non-members
Full Conference w/meals only	\$210 members	\$280 non-members

Registration on-site after April 17, 2026:

Full Conference w/meals only (no on-site lodging available)	\$310 members	\$380 non-members
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Optional Pre-Conference (no discount code):

Mentor Training Course* April 30-May 1	\$190 members	\$240 non-members
w/lodging (Camp Geneva on Thursday, April 30)	\$215 members	\$265 non-members

*Registration includes lunch Thursday and a manual. Register by April 2, 2026. If less than 8 are registered by this date, this course may be cancelled, and refunds issued. Registration on-site is not available.

EAL in the Moment May 1	\$75 members	\$125 non-members
w/lodging (Camp Geneva on Thursday, April 30)	\$100 members	\$150 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 **April 17, 2026.**

Deadline for 50% Refund – Request received in PATH Intl. office by **May 3, 2026.**

Individuals who do not submit a written request to PATH Intl. by May 3, 2026, will not receive a refund.

Education:

This conference satisfies up to **13** hours of continuing education requirements. The preconference satisfies up to **12** additional hours.

Preconference

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Renew TRC

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

P1, PATH Intl. Mentor Training Part 1 **CE**

This course is a professional development course to provide a formalized education process to enhance the skills of those who wish to mentor and to provide current PATH Intl. certified professionals with a continuing education opportunity while enhancing personal observation and feedback skills. Quality mentorship is not only a key component to achieving certification, but to attaining the knowledge, skills and abilities to competently perform the job of an equine-assisted services instructor. PATH Intl. Certified Professionals who mentor are an important part of the success of the candidates and the certification programs, thus enhancing professionalism of the industry. Competent mentorship means safer, more effective services which builds the trust of parents, caregivers, disability service providers, medical professionals, and the public. Includes a manual and lunch on Thursday.

Marsha Anderson, PATH Intl. Advanced Instructor, CTRI®, ESMHL has a master's degree in animal science from Texas A&M University. She has been involved in equine-assisted services for over 30 years and founded Equul Access, Inc., a PATH Intl. PAC, in 2002. Marsha is a PATH Intl. mentor, mentor trainer, associate advanced instructor evaluator, standards course faculty, and lead site visitor. She served six years as the PATH Intl. Region 6 Representative and was chair of the Region Representative Council (now known as the MOC). She has also served on PATH Intl. committees, subcommittees, and task forces, including the Riding Certification Subcommittee and the Certification Oversight Committee. She is currently the PATH Intl. region conferences coordinator.

Friday, May 1, 2026

Camp Geneva

8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

P2, PATH Intl. Mentor Training Part 2 CE

Continuation of session P1.

Renew TRC

8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

P3, EAL in the Moment CR ALL

Facilitated by the staff at Renew TRC, including Melissa Conner, PATH Intl. Master Instructor with CTRI®, ESMHL and Certified Facilitator with EAL Academy, this session will explore the value of equine-assisted learning program offerings at PATH Intl. Centers through hands-on experiences, small group collaboration, and an exploration of facilitation in group settings. Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of the value of EAL, and with tools to incorporate experiential learning for various populations at their own centers.

12 p.m.

Lunch on your own.

12:30 p.m.

Registration Opens at Camp Geneva

Session A

2 – 3 p.m.

A1, From Frustration to Understanding: Communication Strategies Every Instructor Needs DE

Effective communication is essential to safety, learning, and engagement in equine-assisted services (EAS), yet many students participating in therapeutic riding present with communication disorders that make traditional instruction ineffective. This presentation examines practical, evidence-informed strategies for improving comprehension and participation for students with diverse communication needs. The session explores common reasons communication breaks down, including differences in sensory learning styles, attention, auditory processing, motivation, language proficiency, and instructional pacing. Attendees will learn how to recognize whether a student learns best through auditory, visual, tactile, or multimodal input and how to adapt instruction accordingly. By improving how information is delivered and received during a session, instructors can enhance safety, reduce frustration, and promote meaningful participation for all students.

Beth L. Macauley, PhD, CCC-SLP, HPCS, FNAP is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, MI, and a nationally and internationally recognized leader in EAS. With 40 years of experience across equine industries, rehabilitation, and clinical practice, she brings a rare depth of knowledge to horse-participant matching. Dr. Macauley specializes in speech-language pathology, incorporating horses and interdisciplinary practice. Her work integrates evidence-based science with clinical intuition, emphasizing safety, ethical decision-making, equine welfare and effective documentation aligned with current PATH Intl. Standards.

A2, Strengthening Bonds: Helping Volunteers Build Confidence CE

This presentation aims to provide knowledge to bring back to volunteers to teach them skills and the confidence needed to effectively work with horses. Through a combination of equine schooling techniques and practical tips, volunteers will learn how to interact safely and confidently with horses, while gaining a deeper understanding of equine behavior and communication. The presentation will focus on building trust and improving volunteer comfort levels, addressing common fears, and empowering volunteers to overcome challenges in a supportive and educational environment. By the end of the presentation, attendees will leave with a stronger foundation in horsemanship and the tools to confidently engage with horses, enriching their volunteer experience and fostering positive connections with the animals.

Destiny Nugent is a newly Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) with specialized training in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), support groups for individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide, and the ARCH Framework. Certified as a PATH Intl. ESMHL, Destiny has been actively involved with a PATH Intl. PAC since 2019. Through this involvement, they have participated in a range of EAS including vaulting, driving, therapeutic riding lessons and ground lessons. Destiny is passionate about connecting volunteers with horses and leads volunteer training opportunities to ensure that volunteers are equipped with the skills and knowledge to facilitate meaningful interactions in EAS.

Morgan Paeplow is the event and project director at Reins of Life. Although she is new to the EAS industry, she brings valuable experience in nonprofit leadership and community engagement. She is a PATH Intl. ESMHL and knows first-hand how valuable equine schooling can be in helping to develop skills and grow confidence in volunteers. Morgan has a passion for challenging volunteers and supporters to become more engaged and dive deeper into the mission of the center.

A3, Overview of EAS Industry and PATH Intl.'s Global Impact CE

From firsthand experience, this presentation will examine the current state of the EAS industry worldwide. It will highlight the international influence of PATH Intl. on the industry and will identify strengths and explore lessons from others engaged in similar meaningful work globally.

Kim Berggren has been a lifelong horse person, starting in the backyards of Wisconsin. She has been involved in the EAS industry for over 25 years as an instructor, mentor and consultant. She has traveled across the country and made several trips to other countries, helping people develop their skills and programs. Kim is a PATH Intl. Advanced Instructor, CTRI®, ESMHL, mentor, evaluator, and site visitor. She has volunteered in several different roles for PATH Intl., including serving on the governance committee and the Board of Trustees. Kim is also a 4-H horse project leader.

3 – 3:15 p.m.

Break

Session B

3:15 – 4:15 p.m.

B1, Use Salesforce to Manage Equine Expenses CE

If your center uses Salesforce of any flavor (NPSP, Equiforce, LitNim, etc.), learn how to track your equine expenses per animal without buying anything new. Attendees will learn how to set up expense categories, enter each expense and allocate the expense to multiple categories and to individual equines. Learn how to run reports that show quarterly and annual costs per animal and compare those costs to equine-utilization. Learn how to use Quickbooks online reports and a little AI to create an expense upload into Salesforce. Links and instructions will be provided for all attendees.

Teri Walker is the founder and CEO of CommonTeri Services. In 2014, Teri combined her experience in technology with her experience in nonprofit management to found CommonTeri Services to help nonprofits that use Salesforce. She and her team care for people by using systems and data, with a passion for serving nonprofits that deliver direct services like EAS. Teri has 17 years of experience in designing Salesforce solutions for nonprofits and has multiple certifications in Salesforce and Agile project management. CommonTeri first became a PATH Intl. sponsor in 2019.

B2, EAS for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault DE

Offering EAS to survivors has provided opportunities for individuals to experience collaboration, peer support, empowerment, voice, and choice through equine-assisted support groups, individual therapy sessions, and family therapy sessions. These sessions are rooted in trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, person-centered therapy, and adapted from practices linked to eye movement desensitization and reprocessing therapy. Attendees will gain an understanding of trauma informed care, the benefits of EAS for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, and items to consider when collaborating with a community partner to provide these services.

Tori Conner is a LMSW who currently works as a trauma therapist for a nonprofit agency that serves survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Tori graduated from Western Michigan University with a Master of Clinical Social Work with a focus in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Before being a trauma therapist at a nonprofit, Tori had experience working for a private practice, as a direct support professional, a behavior technician and a youth treatment counselor. She is trained in Natural Lifemanship, Level 1. As a lifelong equestrian and horse owner, Tori grew up volunteering and working for therapeutic riding centers and is passionate about facilitating trauma-informed EAS sessions.

Emily Hill (she/her) is a PATH Intl. CTRI® and ESMHL with seven years of experience teaching therapeutic riding. She holds a Bachelor of Social Work and brings a trauma-informed, whole-person perspective to her work with riders of diverse abilities.

B3, Grow a Conditioning Program for Your Herd CR All

Horses in the EAS industry require regular exercise by trained personnel to help them do their job better and longer. Building an intentional conditioning program requires work, commitment and communication. Firm guidelines need to be created and followed by a team that is focused on optimal conditioning for body, mind and spirit of the herd. Those participating in this discussion will receive applicable hands-on tools and examples that they can take back to their centers and implement using their own center's philosophies, expectations and resources. The pros and cons of different approaches to conditioning that should be considered when creating a conditioning program will also be discussed. Renew TRC has received subjective feedback from multiple outside professionals about the excellent condition of the herd, following use of this program.

Teresa Harrington is a PATH Intl. CTRI® at Renew Therapeutic Riding Center and a recently retired public-school teacher. She has used her organizational and interpersonal skills to build and maintain a conditioning program along with Renew's Horse Action Team.

4:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Break

Session C

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

C1, The Art of Witness: Building Meaningful Fundraising Connections in EAS Programs CE

In a world where donors want to feel personally connected to the causes they support, EAS organizations are uniquely positioned to inspire generosity through stories of healing, growth and partnership between humans and horses. Yet many programs still struggle to move beyond event-based fundraising or one-time gifts toward lasting, values-based relationships. This interactive seminar invites EAS executives, staff and board members to explore a more human-centered approach to fundraising—one grounded in empathy, clarity and authentic connection. Together, we'll unpack how to: Shift from "asking for money" to "inviting people into impact;" build trust with donors by connecting program outcomes to emotional and measurable transformation; and create communication rhythms and stewardship practices that reflect your organization's heart and mission. Using real examples from EAS programs and practical storytelling tools, attendees will learn how to design donor journeys that honor both the people and the horses at the center of the work. Re-imagine fundraising as an act of partnership—one that deepens engagement, builds sustainability, and helps your mission thrive.

Kevin Eastway is a strategist, fundraiser and storyteller who helps mission-driven organizations bring clarity and confidence to their fundraising. As the founder of The Acuity Lab and creator of The Fundraisers Collective, Kevin has guided nonprofits, schools and therapy programs across the country in developing relational fundraising strategies that build trust, deepen engagement and grow sustainable support. With a background in process design and leadership development, Kevin specializes in helping organizations uncover the "why" behind their work and translate it into authentic donor journeys. His approach blends strategic rigor with human-centered insight—making fundraising less about transactions and more about meaningful partnership.

C2, Pony Club Pathways: Equine-Assisted Support for Justice-Involved Youth CR All

This session showcases Stargazey's Equine Therapy's Pony Club, a specialized equine-assisted learning (EAL) and adaptive horsemanship program designed for justice-involved youth. Attendees will explore how structured interactions with horses help participants build self-management, impulse control, responsibility and prosocial decision-making. The session will present program outcomes, including an 89% reduction in reoffending rates, evidence-based strategies and case examples, while providing practical guidance for implementing similar equine-assisted initiatives within juvenile justice settings. Attendees will gain insight into how this experiential approach promotes resilience, life skills and positive behavioral change in youth at-risk.

Honor Read (she/her) is a clinically trained mental health professional specializing in youth intervention, crisis response and substance use disorder support. She integrates evidence-based clinical practices with EAS to promote emotional regulation, prosocial skill development, and holistic growth in youth. Honor has 17 years of experience in equine-assisted programming and has since earned certifications as a PATH Intl. CTRI and ESMHL. She facilitates EAL and adaptive horsemanship services through Stargazey's Equine Therapy, a PATH Intl. center, where she applies trauma-responsive and experiential approaches to support emotional regulation in young people through EAS.

C3, Sensory Challenges in Therapeutic Riding Sessions DE

In many situations, it is the challenge of sensory processing in riders that challenges the therapeutic riding instructor with inattention, "squirmy wiggly seats", "grasping grabbing" hands, and frustration behaviors. This session's focus is to provide strategies or tools for instructors to minimize or avoid these challenges in their lessons. How the arena space from obstacles to visual and auditory input, to hands-on activities from pre-ride to dismount can influence these behaviors. In the multisensory-rich environment of the horse arena, riders can see, touch, smell, and hear new sensations that can challenge, overwhelm, soothe and comfort. These can even make learning new skills easier if used correctly. Along with the material presented, there will be an active discussion with Attendees to give tools and strategies they can take home into their lessons.

Bonnie L. DePue is a 25-year Occupational Therapist & Hippotherapy Certified Specialist through the American Hippotherapy Association, as well as a PATH Intl. CTRI® and Advanced TRI for 45 years. She has presented throughout these many years, from local presentations to region and national PATH Intl. conferences, and the 2009 and 2018 International Conferences in Germany and Ireland, respectively. Bonnie has been a part of

many multidisciplinary research projects involving Michigan State University's colleges of veterinary medicine, nursing, osteopathic medicine; Baker College's department of occupational therapy, and Grand Valley College's communication sciences and disorders departments.

6 p.m.

Dinner at Camp Geneva

7:30 p.m.

Facilitated Networking, PATH Intl. Update and Field Test Standards Update

Saturday, May 2, 2026

7:30 am

Breakfast at Camp Geneva

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Registration available

Session D

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

D1, Building an Intentional Culture at Your Center CE

Workplace culture is an important aspect to consider when looking to recruit and retain talent for your EAS center. Ultimately, the leadership is responsible for setting the culture and cultivating the desired culture while keeping the strategic goals and sustainability issues as priorities. This session will explore the basics of workplace culture and will review how to assess and make a plan to improve the culture at your center while staying aligned with the center's mission and vision.

Melissa Conner is a PATH Intl. Master Instructor, CTRI®, ESMHL, and is the executive director of Renew Therapeutic Riding Center. In addition to working as a faculty member with PATH Intl. for the CTRI Skills Clinics and Advanced Instructor Workshops and Certifications, she also serves as a member of the Riding Certification Subcommittee, is a Lead Site Visitor, and is a faculty member for Innovation Circles Leading Business Practices.

D2, Enhancing Therapeutic Riding Through Breathwork CR Riding

Breathing plays a critical role in regulation, posture and engagement. This presentation explores why breath matters by reviewing the basic physiology of breathing and its connection to the nervous system, muscle tone and emotional regulation. Attendees will learn the benefits of breathwork for a variety of participants in therapeutic riding and will be introduced to simple, adaptable breathing exercises. Attendees will be able to explain the importance of breath in therapeutic riding, identify practical benefits and implement breathing strategies and games to enhance outcomes and the rider-horse connection.

Emily Hill see bio in Session B2.

D3, Exploring Psychosocial Impacts of an EAL Program for Veterans and First Responders CR ESMHL

There is a growing body of literature that evaluates the effectiveness of various EAS for Veterans, emergency responders and their families. However, most existing studies focus on psychotherapy incorporating horses, whereas few studies explore the lived experiences of participants engaging in non-therapy-oriented programming such as EAL. Therefore, the aim of this study was to explore the psychosocial impacts of a horsemanship-focused EAL program (Horsemanship for Heroes) on participating Veterans, emergency responders and their family members. This presentation will provide theoretical and practical applications for centers. It will share participant-centric insights from the study which centers can use to build or improve programming for Veterans, emergency responders and their families.

Dr. Sarah Reega (she/they) is a Postdoctoral Researcher at Purdue University. She is studying under Dr. Leanne Nieforth in the Human Animal Partnerships and Interactions (HAPI) Lab. Sarah holds a PhD focused on EAS from Colorado State University and holds an MSc in Equine Science from the University of Edinburgh (Scotland). Sarah is a PATH Intl. advanced instructor, ESMHL, CTRI®, mentor, and faculty member. Her research focuses on equitation science, horse-human interactions, equine welfare and behavior, and therapeutic human-animal interactions across species. Sarah is also a competitive endurance rider and eventer.

9:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Break

Session E

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

E1, Building Veteran Programs from the Ground Up CE

Don't be afraid to start small. Whether starting from nothing or struggling to keep Veterans engaged, you're not alone. Centers across the country face the same challenges—retention, program design, structure. Veterans drift away from programs that don't understand their culture or their needs. This session provides the formula:

military culture is the foundation; horses are the heart; and veterans are the program. Attendees will understand what becomes possible when Veterans become contributors, why military culture matters and how it shapes engagement, and how to plan for growth through grants and community partnerships. Attendees will leave with a Veteran Implementation Guide, a structured framework for building or strengthening their own program.

Shaina Strikwerda is the director of programs at Renew Therapeutic Riding Center. With over 13 years of dedicated experience in EAS, she's passionate about designing and delivering transformative programs through the healing power of horses. Shaina is a PATH Intl. CTRI® and ESMHL. Additionally, she is a Masterson Method Equine Specialist (MMES) and a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) through the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification. Shaina holds a special passion for the Standing Watch program, created to support Veterans and first responders at Renew TRC. She is inspired by the strong bonds participants form with their horses and is committed to helping them grow in ability, confidence and ownership. Seeing Veterans and first responders build resilience and find renewed purpose through these partnerships drives her dedication.

Magdalena Mrozek is a medically retired Army Staff Sergeant with a bachelor's in criminal justice who came to Standing Watch as a participant and never stopped showing up. She now helps shape Veteran programming at Renew TRC and is working toward her ESMHL certification. As a writer and advocate, she bridges military culture and civilian programs by sharing what Veterans need, what keeps them engaged and what makes them stay.

E2, The Body, the Brain, and the Horse: Healing Through Connection Part 1 DE

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are strongly associated with the development of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other trauma-related conditions, largely through their enduring impact on neurobiological stress regulation systems. This presentation explores the evidence and theoretical foundations linking ACEs, PTSD, and psychotherapy incorporating equines as a trauma-responsive intervention. Particular emphasis is placed on the shared characteristics of mammalian autonomic nervous systems, highlighting how horses' highly attuned sympathetic and parasympathetic responses make them uniquely effective co-regulators in therapeutic settings. Drawing from polyvagal theory, attachment theory, and trauma neuroscience, this presentation illustrates how equine interactions can facilitate bottom-up regulation, restore autonomic flexibility, and promote corrective relational experiences for individuals with complex trauma histories. Clinical examples will demonstrate how equine-facilitated interventions enhance emotional regulation, boundary setting, mindfulness, and trauma recovery, particularly for clients who struggle with verbal processing. Implications for trauma-informed practice and integrative treatment models will be discussed.

Sabina Zarlenga is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor with Supervisor designation (LPCC-SUPV), Certified Clinical Trauma Professional (CCTP), Certified Addictions-Informed Mental Health Professional (CAIMHP), and an ESMHL with a deep commitment to compassionate, integrative care. She holds dual Master of Science degrees in Clinical Psychology (Forensic Specialization) and Mental Health Counseling and has completed advanced doctoral coursework in clinical psychology. Drawing from over a decade of advanced training and experience working with complex trauma, substance use and crisis stabilization, Sabina blends evidence-based practices with experiential equine-assisted interventions to support healing, emotional regulation, and empowerment. Her work reflects a holistic understanding of trauma, the nervous system, and the healing potential of human-animal connection.

Matthew Haines is a licensed independent social worker (LISW) specializing in trauma work, PTSD, ACEs, and complex PTSD, with a focus on first responders, military personnel, healthcare professionals and other high-stress populations. He has an associate's degree in fire science, bachelor's degree in emergency management and master's in social work. With over two decades of experience in emergency services and trauma-informed care, and a background as a firefighter and paramedic, he integrates evidence-based approaches—including CBT, DBT, and narrative exposure therapy—with a deep understanding of nervous system and endocrine regulation. Matthew is the developer of a 60-hour trauma recovery program addressing both the emotional and physiological impacts of trauma, helping clients move beyond survival toward healing, resilience and restored well-being.

E3, Evolving Donor Expectations and Steps to Increase Giving and Enhance Engagement and Sustainability CE

In today's competitive philanthropic landscape, securing foundation grants or gifts from individuals requires more than a compelling cause—it demands strategic storytelling, data-driven insights and authentic engagement. This interactive presentation will explore innovative approaches to inspire donor trust, deepen

community connections, and maximize impact. Attendees will gain practical tools, ideas and messaging to build and strengthen long-term relationships with donors and other constituents (e.g., board members, volunteers, community leaders), identify high-potential donor segments, leverage digital platforms for outreach and implement effective stewardship. Attendees will have the opportunity to share current best practices and leave equipped with new actionable strategies to lead or initiate efforts to elevate fundraising, increase engagement, ensure sustainable growth and drive meaningful change for their organizations.

Mary Lavin founded Horse Sense Philanthropy, LLC in 2023 after more than 15 years of experience and achievements as a senior-level development professional in higher education and in both regional and national nonprofits, with a proven track record of building meaningful relationships and strategic alliances that generate new revenue streams and foster long-term donor engagement. She works exclusively with nonprofits in the EAS industry, using her talents to identify and launch new initiatives and partnerships that increase revenue and strengthen mission, reach and impact. Mary holds a Master of Science in Social Administration, and is a member of PATH Intl., the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP), the Grant Professionals Association (GPA), and the National Association of Non-Profit Organizations and Executives (NANOE).

10:45 – 11 a.m.

Break

Session F

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

F1, The Science and Art of Matching Horse and Participant CR All

In EAS, a successful session is rarely about the horse or the participant alone—it is about the intentional and ever-changing relationship between the two, supported by the team. This presentation will discuss the science and art of matching horse and rider by understanding how objective factors such as equine size, movement characteristics, training, health and workload intersect with participant diagnoses, physical and communication abilities, regulation and session goals. Equally important, and often harder to define, are the artistic, more subjective, elements of matching: equine and participant temperament, emotional responses, willingness and the intuitive “gut” reactions that experienced practitioners learn to trust. Real-world examples drawn from PATH Intl. Programs will be used to illustrate how effective matching is dynamic and must be reassessed continuously—sometimes even within a single session—to maintain safety, engagement and therapeutic value. Attention will also be given to the role of the team, including horse leaders, volunteers, family members, environment and tack, and how thoughtful documentation supports ethical and effective practice. Attendees will practice their matching skills through an interactive group activity. Information in this session is designed to help practitioners at all experience levels strengthen their decision-making, confidence and flexibility when matching horses and participants.

Beth Macauley see bio in Session A1.

F2, The Body, the Brain, and the Horse: Healing Through Connection Part 2 DE

Continuation of Session E2.

F3, Creating Community Events that Attract Support CE

Therapeutic riding centers often rely on events to raise awareness and support—but not all events build lasting engagement or organizational credibility. This session explores how Lily Creek Farms leveraged a mission-aligned film screening (Rescued Hearts) and speaking engagements with actress and equestrian Amber Marshall to attract new audiences, deepen community understanding of therapeutic horsemanship and strengthen the Center's credibility. Attendees will learn practical strategies for designing community events that move beyond fundraising to create authentic connection, shared purpose and long-term support for therapeutic riding programs. Presenters will share their learning from hosting this event. Attendees will also explore how to engage event attendees as partners in the mission, not just attendees or donors and create mission-aligned events that enhance organizational credibility and trust within the community.

Aileen Meyer (she/her) is the founder and CEO of the Center for Community Impact, where she supports businesses and social sector organizations in designing strategies that deepen community engagement and strengthen mission impact. She consults with Lily Creek Farms Therapeutic Riding Center and serves as director of RISE Northwest Ohio, one of three inaugural pilot communities partnering with Social Current on the Five and Rising Movement. With more than 25 years of experience in fund development, event strategy, marketing and communications, a master's in organizational leadership and certification in fundraising Management from Lily School of Philanthropy, Aileen brings practical insight into creating community events that build awareness, credibility, and lasting support for therapeutic horsemanship organizations.

Jami Young is the executive director of Lily Creek Farms Therapeutic Riding Center in Ohio.

12 – 1:30 p.m.

BREAK and Drive to Renew TRC

12:30 p.m.

Box Lunches available at Renew TRC

1 p.m.

PATH Intl. Region 4 Meeting

Session G

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

G1, Integrating Takhin Training within EAS CR All

Takhin is a horse training system rooted in classical dressage principles, using in-hand work, lunging and long lining to rehab and condition EAS horses in a safe and systematic way. Takhin has been used within therapeutic programs around the world to teach adult participants, individuals with trauma, Veterans and volunteers how to use the system to aid in the maintenance of EAS horses. This session will engage attendees to understand the benefits of the classical training system for EAS horses, explore the benefits of learning ground-based horse training for adult EAS participants through practice and hear examples of how Takhin is used in different ways in specific therapeutic programs worldwide.

***Leana Tank, MSOTR**, is an occupational therapist with 16 years of experience working primarily in neurorehabilitation and mental health settings. Her background in neurodevelopmental treatment, sensory integration, trauma and the nervous system has deeply informed her current practice working in intensive residential settings with adults with severe mental illness, autism, challenging behaviors, psychosis and complex trauma. Her work is rooted in the concept of being guided holistically by the interests and values of the individual, the interconnectedness of body and mind, the power of movement and nature in mental health and the healing influence of attuned relationships. Leana also serves as adjunct faculty in the Master of Occupational Therapy department at Grand Valley State University since 2014 and leads a study abroad trip to Ecuador each year. She is a long-time equestrian and enjoys practicing classical dressage with her Norwegian Fjord pony and Lusitano.*

G2, The Value of Vaulting in EAS CR Vaulting

Interactive Vaulting (IV) is utilized less than any other activity for which PATH Intl. offers certification. However, it is an activity that is rich with benefits for participants, centers, equines and volunteers. This hands on, INTERACTIVE and fun session will introduce attendees to what IV is and how it can be incorporated into EAS programs. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in an IV lesson and will identify the similarities and differences in interactive and competitive vaulting, as well as how incorporating both can benefit participants in EAS programs. Attendees will observe a demonstration of the components of an Equestrian Vaulting USA competition.

***Amanda Bubb** (she/her) is a PATH Intl. CTRI®, ESMHL, Interactive Vaulting Instructor, and Therapeutic Driving Instructor Level 1 at Reins of Life, Inc. Amanda has worked in the EAS industry for over 20 years and during that time she has served on different PATH Intl. committees and in various industry volunteer roles. She is also an Equestrian Vaulting USA Coach, a PATH Intl. Mentor, Interactive Vaulting Certification Faculty, and Associate Site Visitor. Additionally, she is a CHA Level 4 Equine Facility Manager and Assistant Certifier.*

***Daniele Charierre** (she/her) began volunteering in the field of EAS at the age of 13. At the age of 18, she began the instructor-in-training process and was hired as an instructor at Reins of Life, Inc. after becoming certified through PATH Intl. in 2015. She now holds certification as a PATH Intl. CTRI®, Interactive Vaulting Instructor, and ESMHL. Daniele has been involved in the creation and growth of the IV program at Reins of Life and continues to be passionate about interactive vaulting.*

G3, Helping EAS Horses with Pain and Inflammation CR All

Horses are essential partners in EAS, and their physical comfort, emotional regulation, and overall well-being directly impact program quality and safety. This presentation explores integrative, welfare-centered strategies used to support horses experiencing inflammation, pain, stress and serious illness, with an emphasis on responsible, adjunctive application alongside veterinary care. The session will review the professional use of essential oils, including specific Rocky Mountain Oils, as supportive tools for calming, comfort and inflammation management. Evidence-informed practices, safety considerations, contraindications, and appropriate delivery methods will be discussed. Attendees will also be introduced to mushroom powders as a complementary support, highlighting current veterinary and comparative research. In addition, the presentation will address the use of Bach flower essences with horses, focusing on emotional balance, stress response, and behavioral support in therapeutic settings. Available literature, observational outcomes, and ethical considerations will be reviewed, with clear distinction between supportive care and medical treatment.

Sheryl Mankel is owner of Connected-Healing, LLC, is NBCAAM certified, and helps individuals manage chronic pain and inflammation through hands-on holistic techniques. With over 15 years of experience, she's guided clients to relief using bodywork modalities. Her approach is rooted in the belief that true healing comes from addressing both the physical and emotional aspects of pain.

G4, Interns Welcomed! Student Engagement at Your Center CE

Starting a new internship program can be a bit intimidating, but with the right tools, train of thought, and structure, starting an internship program could be exactly what a center needs. Consider the center's mission, culture and the short-term and long-term goals of the organization. Learn how to get started and utilize mission-minded student engagement in a comprehensive chat with a focus on action steps, helpful documentation and evaluation.

Aly Stscherban is a PATH Intl. CTRI®, ESMHL, and internship program director for Reins of Life, Inc. Aly is helping to bridge connection between EAS Centers and students seeking education, experience, and exposure to non-traditional interventions and nonprofit organizations and has been a member of the Reins of Life staff since 2017 as an instructor and assistant to the executive director. Understanding the diversity of programming and community reach has helped develop an internship program of more than a dozen placements each year from programs including occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, social work, psychology, and more.

2:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Break

Session H

2:45 – 3:45 p.m.

H1, Movement, Rhythm, Music...Let's Dance a Drill! Part 1 CE

As people with a passion for horses and all they bring to our lives, we love what their movement does for us inside and out. We enjoy music for much the same reason. When music and horses are combined, a rhythm is created together. One can dance individually or within a group with drill. This session will show that creating a drill can be a simple activity in one lesson or a group project through several sessions. Attendees will be given samples of drill maneuvers, suggestions for choosing music, and help with preparing horses, volunteers and riders.

Bonnie L. DePue see bio in Session C3.

H2, Body and Mindset for Horses and Humans CR All

Success is where preparation and opportunity meet. Join us for a dynamic hour of group activities, discussion, and hands-on exercises with horses as we explore practical approaches to prepare both horses and humans for everyday programming. Come away with knowledge of simple body conditioning exercises for horses, creative approaches for movement both on and off the horse and building awareness for the mindsets of all the horses and humans in your programs.

Kayla Tuinenga is a PATH Intl. CTRI®, Interactive Vaulting instructor, and region 4 ambassador as well as a Certified Facilitator for EAL Academy. Finding great joy in many aspects of the EAS industry, Kayla is particularly passionate about education; teaching 50+ students a week, mentoring current and upcoming professionals and being hands-on with education for volunteers and program equines.

H3, Understanding How EAS Produce Change Part 1 DE

This experiential, theory-to-practice session introduces a practical model of mechanisms of action in EAS, informed by Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) principles and designed for instructors, therapists and program administrators. Through a combination of brief conceptual explanations and guided experiential activities, participants will explore how interactions with horses can function as powerful contexts for learning, emotional regulation, attention to the present moment, motivation, relational engagement, and behavioral flexibility. Rather than focusing on clinical treatment or technical psychology, the session will emphasize observable, functional processes that occur during common EAS activities. Attendees will actively engage in exercises that illustrate how ACT concepts such as values-based action, present-moment awareness and cognitive diffusion can be naturally embedded within EAS sessions and understood as mechanisms of action rather than therapeutic techniques.

Roberto Pérez Verdía de la Torre is a Mexican psychologist specializing in therapy incorporating equines with over 15 years of experience. His expertise lies in working with individuals with disabilities and in addiction rehabilitation. He is involved in the diagnosis, treatment and ongoing care of both patients and their families, successfully developing and leading social assistance programs, as well as establishing partnerships with private

and governmental institutions. In 2011, he founded and currently serves as director of CARAE, an institution dedicated to providing EAS to people with disabilities in the city of Guadalajara, particularly those with developmental disorders and behavioral problems. Roberto holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Universidad Guadalajara Lamar and a master's degree in education. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in clinical psychology and research at Universidad Marista de Guadalajara. He has also completed diplomas in equine psychology and behavior, family development, and equine therapies.

H4, Practical Development Strategies for EAS Centers CE

This interactive session will explore practical development strategies designed specifically for EAS centers. Drawing from real-world experience at a PATH Intl. center, attendees will learn how to create simple systems that save time, prioritize fundraising efforts and focus on strategies that deliver the greatest impact without burnout.

Liz Lesperance is the development coordinator for Renew TRC, where she supports fundraising and donor engagement efforts. She grew up being around and riding horses and has a lifelong appreciation for the impact of EAS. After volunteering at Renew for three years, Liz joined the staff and has served in her current role for a little over a year. She continues to work on practical development strategies that fit the realities of the nonprofit world and bring a hands-on, real-world perspective that has been shaped by her experiences from her past and current horse involvement, which supports the mission at Renew.

3:45 – 4 p.m.

Break

Session I

4 – 5 p.m.

I1, Part 2: Movement, Rhythm, Music...Let's Dance a Drill! CE

Continuation of session H1. Attendees will be introduced to some of Renew's horses and have a chance to learn a drill in one lesson! Drill can bring joy, camaraderie, communication, confidence and so much more.

I2, The Benefits of Incorporating Rein Boards and Ground Driving in EAS Programs CR All

This hands-on presentation will benefit industry professionals regardless of prior driving experience and will provide attendees with actionable ideas to incorporate at their own center, whether therapeutic driving is offered or not. Attendees will learn about rein boards and how they can be beneficial in EAS. There will be an opportunity to practice effective ground driving techniques to help attendees recognize the value of ground driving in EAS programs for both participants and equines.

Amanda Bubbs see bio in Session G2.

Tina Bennett is the executive director for The Exceptional Horseback Riders of Saginaw County, Inc. She is a PATH Intl. Driving Level III Instructor, Lead Driving Evaluator, CTRI, ESMHL, PATH Intl. Mentor, 4-H riding/driving instructor and is a CAA Driver Proficiency Level 1. She currently sits on the Credentialing Council and the Driving Certification Subcommittee for PATH Intl.

I3, Understanding How EAS Produce Change Part 2 DE

Continuation of session H3.

I4, From Disaster to Distinction: PALS Story of Tornado Recovery CE

In May 2025, PALS was devastated by an EF-2 tornado. Within one month, the center was back to offering programming, and within one year, the facility had been rebuilt. Attendees will hear lessons learned, obstacles and mistakes made along the way to turning this natural disaster into an opportunity to come back stronger and make even more of an impact on our community and region.

Chris Herring is the executive director of PALS and a lifelong equestrian. Her riding experience includes trail riding, dressage and training for endurance. Chris is a graduate of Indiana University and worked for 17 years in research and research development at IU. She also attended Purdue University and worked for many years as a veterinary technician. She has called Monroe County, Indiana, home for over 30 years.

Melissa Abbey is the program director of PALS and has over thirty years' experience in experiential education. She has been a member of PATH Intl. since 2007 and has led both small and large programs in California, Tennessee, North Carolina and Indiana. Melissa is on the PATH Intl. ESMHL subcommittee and has a miniature horse who has worked alongside her at PATH Intl. centers in three states, showing off his tricks and begging for treats.

5 – 5:15 p.m.

Break

Session J

5:15 – 6:15 p.m.

J1, Driving Instructor Basics CR Driving

This interactive presentation will allow attendees of all experience levels to get hands-on with therapeutic driving! This session will cover many of the components that candidates will be asked to perform at a driving instructor certification event. Attendees will get a chance to better understand harnesses, how to harness and equine and put them to a cart. Attendees will also get a chance to watch demonstrations of an equine being driven through a cones course and the driven dressage test used at certification events.

Amanda Bubb see bio in Session G2.

Tina Bennett see bio in Session I2.

J2, Impact of Different Horses on a Speech Therapy Session DE

The purpose of this practical demonstration is to show the impact of different horses on the effectiveness of a speech therapy session. A current client with a communication disorder will participate in a speech therapy session for ten minutes on horse one, ten minutes on horse two, and 10 minutes on horse three. The lead speech language pathologist (SLP) will provide the session goals and information about the client and each horse. The attendees will evaluate each horse and rank which horse facilitated the best outcomes. A guided discussion of how and why the horse helps with communication and how to get SLPs interested in your program will also occur.

Beth Macauley see bio in Session A1.

J3, Using Movement Method to Support Neurodiverse Clients and Families DE

Movement Method was developed as a kinetic learning method to support neurodiverse learners in outdoor, nature-based environments. It was developed in concert with EAS to support kids and their families to continue to learn and grow during the times when they are not on the back of the horse. Using nature, intrinsic motivation, movement that supports communication and brain development, and guidelines for understanding the needs of neurodiverse clients, movement method is now being more broadly applied with adults and teens in more than 40 countries, schools, EAS centers and private practices.

Leana Tank see bio in Session G1.

J4, An Equine-Assisted Community Program for Older Adults to Reduce Loneliness CE

Loneliness among older adults is an increasing public health concern that negatively affects health, well-being and quality of life. Meaningful occupation and community participation are central to occupational therapy practice and have been shown to support social connection and emotional health. This review of an existing program describes a unique equine-assisted community program designed to reduce loneliness in older adults through engagement in purposeful, occupation-based activities. Attendees engaged in a pre-riding exercise class led by an occupational therapist and in structured equine-related tasks, including grooming, tacking and horseback riding. This was completed within a supportive group environment that encouraged social interaction and shared experiences. The program emphasized meaningful roles, routine participation, and human-animal connection as mechanisms for fostering engagement and belonging. Voluntary participant feedback and literature findings suggest improvements in perceived social connectedness, sense of purpose, and emotional well-being. Implications for occupational therapy practice, future research, and community-based interventions are discussed.

Samantha Dunleavy-Shotsberger is an occupational therapist as well as a CHA-certified therapeutic riding instructor at the Cheff Therapeutic Riding Center in Augusta, MI. A horse owner and rider for the past 18 years, she has always been looking for a way to combine a passion for horses with a curiosity for healthcare. She has experience working with various populations, ranging from treating orthopedic injuries to managing mental health concerns and secondary impacts. Her goal is to promote participation, purpose and quality of life across the life span while continuing to educate and advance occupational therapy practices.

6:15 p.m.

Dinner on Your Own

Sunday, May 3, 2026

7:30 a.m.

Breakfast at Camp Geneva

Session K

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

K1, Scenario-Based De-Escalation Training in the EAS Environment DE

Through a discussion of what de-escalation looks like in the EAS environment, this presentation will focus on the diagnoses of attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism, and oppositional defiant disorder (ODD). These traits are commonly seen in other diagnoses and routinely overlap through dual diagnosis presentation. Basic brain development, escalation and dysregulation influences for ADHD, Autism, and ODD will be discussed. Scenarios, volunteer role responsibilities, content discussion and diagnosis traits using the three tiers of auditory, visual and kinesthetic learning styles will be utilized. This presentation explores what to do with educated responses, de-escalation techniques, critical thinking and situational assessment for what participants need to safely continue with their lesson, while also preparing volunteers and instructors for the “what-ifs” within the EAS environment in a safe and controlled manner.

Stephanie Slepicka is the director of volunteer operations and a current PATH Intl. CTRI® and ESMHL with the Therapeutic Riding Institute (TRI), in Spring Valley, OH. She brings to her roles over 20 years of crisis de-escalation experience, training tactics and trauma response tools. She is also a Peer Recovery Support candidate and partners with TRI's mental health team for Equine Assisted Counseling (EAC) services. Stephanie received her Master of Arts in Sociology from American Public University and is a current Ohio Crisis Response Team member.

K2, Exploring the Horse-Human Connection CE

As an author having done extensive research on horses throughout history, and as a volunteer in the EAS setting with an interest in the horse-human connection, this session will explore the history of how humans have depended upon horses and how the relationship has evolved to affect the industry of EAS. Taking a deep dive into indigenous ways of being with horses and contrasting them to the modern methods of natural horsemanship, the presenter will challenge participants to consider their own care and handling techniques in the EAS field.

Benjamin Conner, PhD, is a professor of practical theology and the director of the Center for Disability and Ministry at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. He volunteers at Renew Therapeutic Riding Center and led a grant-funded practicum in 2025 entitled "Nurturing Children with Disabilities," a Lilly-funded endeavor to research how children interact with nature and how it affects their faith life. Together with his wife, he is authoring a book entitled, *The Harmony Way: A Spiritual Look at Equine-Assisted Services*. As a horse owner, he has observed and researched the natural behaviors of equines extensively.

K3, CORE Volunteer Management CE

In this session, attendees will learn the core ideas and some key tools behind successfully managing and retaining volunteers in the EAS industry, as well as strategies for growth and recruitment. CORE is an acronym for: Communication: ways to keep everyone informed & engaged; Organization: how to maintain the systems already in place; Relationship: impactful appreciation for volunteers leads to retention & recruitment; and Education: timely and frequent training opportunities. This session is open to all, as understanding how to manage volunteers successfully is a cornerstone for every EAS program.

Elizabeth Turner is a part-time volunteer training associate as well as a PATH Intl. CTRI® at Renew Therapeutic Riding Center. She started on staff as the full-time volunteer coordinator and has managed and trained hundreds of volunteers since 2023. Elizabeth is passionate about sharing the mission of Renew with volunteers and providing thorough but concise training for volunteers so that they can be prepared to partner with staff and horses in whatever circumstances they may face. She also enjoys keeping systems organized so that no one falls through the cracks and has the best volunteer experience possible.

Mia Diekevers is the full-time volunteer coordinator at Renew. She came into the role at the beginning of 2025 and spends her time managing and scheduling hundreds of volunteers. Mia is passionate about ensuring volunteers have a positive experience while volunteering at Renew, while also keeping all the volunteers' shifts filled to ensure the safety of participants. She also enjoys connecting with volunteers and hearing the positive impacts Renew has had on their lives.

9:30 – 9:45 a.m.

Break

Session L

9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

L1, Strategies to Avoid Burnout CE

Burnout is a rising struggle for the EAS industry from instructors to equines. Why is this happening, and how can it be stopped? This session uncovers the root cause of burnout and delivers practical solutions to help every part of a program thrive.

Kim Berggren see bio in Session A3.

L2, Building Emotional Skills in Youth Through EAS CR ESMHL

This session explores how EAS can complement traditional mental health counseling for youth. Attendees will learn how structured, prosocial group interactions with horses support the development of key emotional regulation skills—such as self-awareness, impulse control, and resilience—within a hands-on, experiential environment. The session will present data, evidence-informed strategies, individual case examples, and practical guidance for incorporating EAL and adaptive horsemanship into mental health programming, highlighting how this unique approach promotes emotional, behavioral and life skill growth in young people.

Honor Read see bio in Session C2.

L3, Moving Beyond the Scarcity Mindset CE

Scarcity thinking can limit how EAS centers plan, fund and sustain their work. This session invites attendees to move beyond survival-based fundraising by exploring the principles of the Five and Rising Movement and applying them to a donor-centered, diversified fund development approach. Attendees will examine how understanding the true cost of operating a center strengthens credibility, supports fair compensation and improves decision-making. The session will also address practical processes for engaging boards and key stakeholders in shared ownership of the fund development plan. Through guided discussion and small-group work, participants will begin developing or refining a fund development plan and leave with clear next steps to strengthen their organization's long-term sustainability.

Aileen Meyer see bio in Session E3.

10:45 – 11 a.m.

Break

Session M

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

M1, Oculomotor and Visual Perceptual Skills for Equestrians DE

This session will educate attendees on the role of oculomotor and visual perceptual skills in equestrian performance. Attendees will learn to identify the signs and symptoms of visual impairments, distinguish between acuity and oculomotor deficits, and understand key visual skills like tracking, fixation and depth perception. The impact of these skills on riding, including balance, coordination and reaction time, will be explored, along with natural methods to address visual deficits through exercises and mindfulness. Finally, a plan of care will be provided, offering strategies for improving visual skills and enhancing performance through targeted support and training routines.

Sarah Miller, MS, OTR/L, CBIS, PATH Intl. CTRI® is an experienced and dedicated occupational therapist with a passion for neurorehabilitation. She holds a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, Bachelor of Science in Therapeutic Recreation, and is a licensed and registered occupational therapist (OTRL). With over 13 years of experience in therapeutic riding and OT incorporating equines, Sarah has honed her expertise in manipulation of equine movement to support both pediatric and adult clients in their rehabilitation journey. In addition to her clinical training, Sarah is a PATH Intl. CTRI®, Certified Brain Injury Specialist (CBIS), and has received specialized training in Ayres Sensory Integration, vision therapy, reflex integration, and OT incorporating equines. She integrates these advanced techniques into her practice, providing individualized and holistic care to her clients. Her work focuses on helping individuals with neurological and developmental challenges improve their motor skills, sensory processing, and increase independence in daily activities.

M2, Equipment Use on the Heads of TR Horses CE

Equipment on the head of the horse has the potential to impact horse behavior, learning ability and well-being. The therapeutic riding (TR) horse is usually ridden by a participant while being led by a horse leader, which presents a unique situation for equipment used on the head of the horse. The purpose of this study was to identify which individuals make decisions about equipment use and to describe the types of equipment used on the heads of TR horses in the United States. An anonymous online survey was distributed to certified TR

instructors and TR center leaders through social media and email listservs, resulting in 403 complete responses. This session will review who makes equipment use decisions, which factors TR professionals consider most important when making equipment decisions, and how equipment is used on the head of the TR horse. The presentation will compare equipment use trends nationally versus in the Midwestern region.

Dr. Sarah Reega see bio in Session D3.

M3, The Value and Need for Self-Assessment in EAS CE

This session will discuss how impactful self-assessment can be in all layers of EAS programming. From professional goals to self-improvement and more effective instruction, to setting up volunteers and participants to engage with their instructor and equine while keeping a beginner's mind. Group discussion and hands-on activities will give attendees the chance to challenge themselves to think in new and challenging ways about how we share our knowledge.

Kayla Tuinenga see bio in Session H2.

Julia Vande Waa is a PATH Intl. CTRI® and works as a part-time intern at Renew Therapeutic Riding Center. She began as a TR at the age of 11 and started volunteering at 13. Her intentional journey towards certification began after attending a PATH Intl. CTRI® prep course at age 16. After obtaining permission from PATH Intl. to begin as an instructor in training before 18, she launched into the learning process with the goal of giving back to other riders as she had been inspired by and taught as a TR rider herself. Julia is always enthusiastic about learning more!

12 p.m.

Farewell and Safe Travels!

We look forward to seeing you soon in Michigan!