

**PATH Intl.  
Regional  
Conference**

**Presented  
by  
PATH Intl. Region 5**

**August 2 - 4, 2019**

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



## Refund Policy:

**No refunds due to weather unless the conference is canceled.**

**Written cancellation request is required for refund.**

**Deadline for Full Refund** – Request received in PATH Intl. office by **July 19, 2019.**

**Deadline for 50% Refund** - Request received in PATH Intl. office by **August 4, 2019.**

**Individuals who do not submit a written request to PATH Intl. by August 4, 2019, will not receive a refund.**

**\*Deadline for Standards Course Refund** – Request received in PATH Intl. office by **July 8, 2019. No refunds after this date.**

## Education:

This conference satisfies up to 15 hours of annual continuing education requirements.

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	LIMIT	CEU Conversion
DE	Disability Education	Minimum six hours (no maximum)	60 min = 1 DE
CR	Certification Core Requirement	Minimum of two hours per certification	60 min = 1 CR
CE	General Continuing Education	No minimum or maximum requirement	60 min = 1 CE

# AGENDA

## Friday, August 2, 2019

### Holiday Inn (Sunset Room)

12:30 – 5:30 p.m.

**PATH Intl. Standards Course CE**

6 – 8 p.m.

**Early Registration and Meet & Greet  
Members Helping Members Networking Sessions**

## Saturday, August 3, 2019

### College of Central Florida

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

**Registration & Welcome**

## Session A

8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

### **A1, Developing Relationships and Social Connections in Children w/PTSD w/JYAC Curriculum DE**

Presentation and discussion of activities and outcomes with the children, staff and volunteers including hands-on experiences, interacting with the Just Ask Yourself to Care (JAYC) curriculum. The learning objective is to educate mental health professionals and therapeutic riding instructors to understand connections and how to build teams to implement relationship building.

**Cecile Komara, PhD**, is an assistant professor at the University of Alabama in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies. She is a PATH Intl. Certified Advanced Instructor with over 20 years of experience in therapeutic riding. Cecile has a PhD degree in special education.

**Shelley Jones, MEd, CCC-SLP**, is the director of the therapeutic program at the University of Alabama. She is a PATH Intl. Certified Registered Instructor with 17 years of experience in therapeutic riding. Shelley has an MEd degree in special education and communication science disorders.

8:30 –10:30 a.m.

### **A2, Barn Fire CE**

Barn fires are better when prevented—actual average response times are statistically unrealistic to save all human and equine lives. This presentation will give you facts and statistics based on NFPA 150, with specific tasks for prevention, mitigation and response via evacuation planning that can be followed to limit the danger of fire in your facility and increase the chances of rescuing all personnel and equines in case it does happen.

**Rebecca (Gimenez) Husted** published the first textbook on *Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue* (Wiley-Blackwell) in 2008. She is a decorated combat veteran, retired Signal Officer, US ARMY. Rebecca holds a BS degree in biology from Wofford College, and a PhD degree in animal physiology from Clemson University. She gives training in Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue (TLAER) techniques across the U.S. and internationally. She has published numerous critiques, techniques and journal articles on a variety of technical subjects in large animal disaster and emergency rescue. Rebecca is a Principal/SME member of the Technical Committee of the NFPA Standard 150 – Life and Fire Safety in Animal Housing, contributes to equine welfare committees and others defining technical competencies for large animal rescue around the world.

8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

### **A3, Equine Activity Liability Acts – Are You Blindly Galloping Along? CE**

Are you prepared to defend if you or your center is sued? Hear a summary of the origin and protections of the Equine Activity Liability Acts nationwide and what it means in your state. Hear about some of the cases that have tested the immunity of the EALA and gain valuable insight and understanding why compliance with PATH Intl. standards is important in the courtroom.

**Deborah Manasco** is a lifelong equine enthusiast. She has competed, coached, judged and taught horsemanship in various settings for over 40 years. In 2007, she retired from practicing law and now returns to practice with the Alabama Legislature during regular session each year. Deborah teaches therapeutic horsemanship part time at Storybook Farm in Opelika, AL, a PATH Intl. member center. She is a PATH Intl. Certified Registered Instructor, mentor and site visitor.

8:30-10:30 a.m.

### **A4, Networking for Fundraising CE**

Why reinvent the wheel when it comes to fundraising events? This is your chance to share what works for your center and learn what others are doing to raise funds and awareness for their program. We are asking attendees to furnish the presenter with three fundraising ideas that work for you (via email to [info@harmonyfarmsinc.com](mailto:info@harmonyfarmsinc.com)), prior to the conference. We are interested in large and small events; if it works for you, let's hear about it. Ideas will be discussed in the workshop and you will receive a list of all events via PowerPoint. Please include the following details about the event: Name of event, how it works, number of volunteers needed, range of how much was raised and mistakes to avoid.

**Pam Rogan** is the founder and executive director of Harmony Farms Inc. in Cocoa, Florida. She is a PATH Intl. Certified Registered Instructor. Harmony Farms started with five riders, three horses and six volunteers in someone's backyard. After moving around to several leased facilities, in 2015 they purchased their own facility. It is on 14 acres and has three barns and a covered arena. Harmony Farms Inc. currently has 12 program horses.

10:30 – 10:45 a.m.

**BREAK**

## Session B

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

### **B1, Addressing Trauma with Equine-Assisted Learning DE**

With the growing trend of children in foster care, this is a population that is demanding the attention of mental health professionals and the community at large. Learn how equine-assisted learning paired with mentorship can develop the life skills necessary for foster children to make healthy transitions into adulthood.

**Rebecca Britt** founded Stable Moments in October 2014. Rebecca is a social worker and horse trainer with a certification as a PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning. She received her bachelor's degree of social work from the University of Vermont in 2010 and became employed as a post adoption case manager. During her work with adopted children, she realized the correlations between how to therapeutically intervene with children surviving with trauma and how to train horses using natural horsemanship. Rebecca has developed her model and is offering it as a practical curriculum to anyone wishing to serve foster or adopted children. She is currently earning her master's degree in program evaluation, in hopes of providing all Stable Moments locations the best tools for collecting data and demonstrating the impact of their programs.

10:45 – 11:45 a.m.

### **B2, New Teaching Tools for Instructors of Beginning Riders CR Riding**

Learning to ride should be fun. Learning new teaching concepts should be fun, too! Using adult-sized stick horses, games and other unconventional activities, the attendees will be introduced to leadership and communication skills, depth perception, attention vs. awareness, anxiety, physical and mental overload, and memory skills.

**Martha Marquette** has over 30 years of experience in riding instruction for students of all ages and abilities. She holds many instructor certificates, including Cheff Therapeutic Riding and Potomac Horse Center Horse master. Her special interest is in beginner riders. She uses the new science of brain-based learning to help instructors better understand why beginner riders do what they do, and how to teach them in a more efficient and effective way. Martha calls southern Virginia home, and is the author of the upcoming book for entry-level instructors and beginner riders.

10:45-11:45 a.m.

### **B3, Serving Veterans in a Safe and Positive Way CE**

In this presentation we will discuss how we began our veterans' program and the things we have learned along the way through trial and error. We will talk about starting our pilot program, how we found participants and the feedback we have received through assessment tools and debriefing sessions. We will also talk about the importance of creating a safe and positive environment so that our veterans are able to experience healing and growth by placing an emphasis on the bonding process with the horses before any riding takes place.

**Cassie Brunson** is a PATH Intl. Certified Registered Instructor, holds a bachelor's degree in both psychology and special education and has served as the MSU Extension Equine Assisted Therapy Programs Coordinator/Director for the past six years.

**Lori Irvin** has served as an instructor, volunteer coordinator and veterans horsemanship program coordinator for MSU Extension Equine Assisted Therapy Programs for four years. Lori has over 20 years of experience in working with children and adults with behavioral, psychological and cognitive challenges and various disabilities. Lori's father retired after 43 years from the Mississippi Army National Guard. He served in the Korean War, Desert Storm and was an active member of the 31st Infantry Division ("Dixie Division"). Lori saw her father struggle with PTS symptoms for the rest of his life after the Korean War. This created empathy for those with similar stories and a desire to support them through EAAT. Lori is a PATH Intl. Certified Registered Instructor and a certified rehabilitation counselor. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and a Master of Science degree in educational counseling with a concentration in rehabilitation counseling.

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

#### **B4, The Board of Directors CE**

How do you know if you have a great board of directors? A great board knows its role but what exactly is that? What is the characteristic of a great board member and where do you find that person? What is founder's syndrome and is there a cure? What happens with a working board? A great board should serve as the strategic partner of the CEO on long-term planning and short-term crisis management. Would you describe your board like this?

Not engaged - Not raising enough money - Not giving enough money

Not caring about giving or raising money - Overly engaged - Using board seat for personal gain

Making poor decisions - Not thinking strategically

You will leave this session with a better understanding of the crucial role the board plays in your organization and how you can help build a better board and have a more productive relationship with your board chair.

**Gail Sonnenberg** was born and raised in the Washington, DC, area and spent 30 years with the United States Postal Service. There, she served in several officer positions, including vice president of human resources and senior vice president of sales. She studied at the University of Maryland, the Duke Fuqua School of Business, and the Darden School at UVA. Gail co-founded the High-Performance Equestrian Foundation in Middleburg, VA, establishing a 501(c)3 to support talented, underfunded aspiring equestrians. Gail has been a volunteer with MTRA since 2014 and joined our board in March 2017.

**Karen Cunningham** has been the board chair since 2015 and a volunteer with MTRA since 2007. In 2014 Karen was the interim executive director for four months, which provided a unique perspective of the daily operations at MTRA. Karen has previously served as president of the National Alliance for Mental Illness, Marion County and as the chair for the Mental Wellness Coalition and a member of the Florida Local Advocacy Council. With a background in real estate, title insurance and banking, Karen brought her attention to detail to MTRA along with her love for horses.

11:45 to 1:15 **Lunch With PATH Intl. Update**

### **Session C**

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

#### **C1, Stable Moments and the Importance of Trauma-Informed Care DE**

Stable Moments is a trauma-informed program for foster and adoptive children with a history of early developmental trauma. This program includes mentorship and equine-assisted learning activities. Objectives of this session are 1. Gain knowledge regarding the need for trauma-informed care and the impact it can have at your center. 2. Gain a basic understanding of the Stable Moments curriculum and trauma-informed care based on SAMHSA's recommendations.

**Allie Barnett** founded Safe Haven Equine Ministries at age 24 after seeing a great need for support of young people in her community. She set out to create a space where 12-18-year-olds could feel safe and be cared for holistically. The best way she knew how to create this place is to use the power of horses. Allie is a CHA instructor, PATH Intl. Certified Registered Instructor, Stable Moments Certified and a registered nurse.

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

#### **C2, Horse Trailer Safety CE**

PATH Intl. equine partners deserve to be transported in a safe, well-maintained trailer. Many horse trailers demonstrate basic FAILS in maintenance and safety that are simple to fix once the responsible party is aware. This presentation will give you facts, with specific tasks for prevention, mitigation and corrections that can be made to limit the danger of trailer wrecks and increase the chances of rescuing equines in case it does happen out on the road.

**Rebecca (Gimenez) Husted** see bio under C2.

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

### **C3, Equine-Assisted Leaders CE**

In this session we will share the Equine-Assisted Leadership Development™ (EALD™) methodology proven in multiple PATH Intl. Premier Accredited Centers to develop leadership skills for local organizations (corporate/professional), colleges/universities, veterans, and youth at risk. The methodology involves certifying your instructors to offer and teach the EALD courses to local organizations, which then generates revenue to fund your center's sustainability. The methodology focuses on advancing an individual or team's leadership skills using equine-assisted learning (EAL) – assisting organizations and society to develop better and more inspiring leaders while creating a unique and innovative additional revenue stream for your facility. Join us to learn about the methodology, licensing, certification and results centers have experienced in generating revenue to support their employees, horses, programing and infrastructure.

**Jeff Arnold** is the founder of Leadership Adventures, Inc., which focuses on developing inspiring leaders around the globe. He has spent a 24-year career working in corporate consulting with clients all over the world developing leaders. He has worked with more than 100 CEOs and client organizations worldwide, including colleges and universities, Fortune 100 companies, nonprofits and faith-based organizations. He is a student of leadership and believes that each of us is on a journey to become a better leader, and that becoming a better leader is an adventure requiring both new skills and practice opportunity. In 2008, he was honored with the esteemed Inspiring Leadership award by the world's largest consulting firm as measured by revenue, a Fortune Global 500 company. He was recently featured in JH Style magazine discussing the benefits of experiential, accelerated, equine-based leadership development.

**Courtney Gramlich** is the director of the Storm Harbor Equestrian Center on the campus of Slippery Rock University in western Pennsylvania. She is a therapeutic recreation specialist and has been working in the field of therapeutic riding and equine-assisted activities for over 20 years. She has been employed by Slippery Rock University for 13 years and currently works with many different academic majors helping to give students opportunities to work with people with disabilities and horses. Courtney has presented at many PATH Intl. conferences on a variety of topics from research to American veteran programing. She is also currently certified in the EALD program.

1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

### **C4, How to Run Your Center Like a Business and Still Keep the Heart CE**

Do you think of the service you provide as a business or is it a service fueled by passion and giving back to the community? Fortunately, these descriptions are not mutually exclusive. Most of us join this field because of our passion for equine-assisted activities and therapies. In researching the challenge of sustainability for centers, one of the top issues consistently raised was business knowledge. In order to be sustainable, it is important to not only follow the passion and mission, but approach service delivery from a business perspective. Join PATH Intl. CEO Kathy Alm as she explores the steps to running your center in a sustainable manner while remaining focused on mission delivery and the "heart" of your organization.

**Kathy Alm** began her service as chief executive officer of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH Intl.) in August 2014. For the previous 16 years she served as executive director of Little Bit Therapeutic Riding Center in Woodinville, WA. She grew the previously grassroots organization from a \$280,000 annual operating budget to a professional \$2.1 million organization. Kathy served as the PATH Intl. board president in the 2010-2012 term, first joining the board of trustees in 2005. She has facilitated numerous workshops and presentations on board, staff, fundraising and strategic planning and enjoys the opportunity to share her experience as well as learn from others. Her dedication to the field of equine-assisted activities and therapies spans over 19 years with a passion that was ignited the moment she walked through the door at her first therapeutic riding center.

3:30 – 3:45 p.m.

**BREAK**

## SESSION D

3:45 – 4:45 p.m.

### **D1, The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Beyond Basic Etiquette CE**

Hear a brief, practice-specific summary of pertinent portions the ADA and its application to EAAT services toward gaining valuable insight and understanding why compliance with the ADA in PATH Intl. settings is important. Participants will learn to recognize and use some ADA terminology and to identify etiquette appropriate for potentially awkward situations in the EAAT setting.

**Deborah Manasco** see bio under A3.

3:45 – 4:45 p.m.

### **D2, Bring Driving to Your Center: The Hows and Whys CE**

Are you bringing a driving program to your center? This session will discuss how it is accomplished and why a center may benefit from a driving program.

**Melissa Yarbrough** is the executive director and founder of Inspire Equine Therapy Program located in Clearwater, Florida. Melissa has been a PATH Intl. Certified Registered Instructor since 2001 and is a PATH Intl. Driving Associate Evaluator. Melissa has been driving and training carriage horses for over 27 years. Melissa is also a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst.

3:45 – 4:45 p.m.

### **D3, Putting Your Best Hoof Forward CE**

We will be looking at the different ways on how to create a great name for your center in the community and what is the best way to present your center's different platforms. We will look at the photos we use, how easy is it to navigate through your website, and how well are you using social media to your advantage.

**Sarah Lloyd** graduated from St. Andrews University with a BA degree in therapeutic horsemanship. She also received her PATH Intl. Advanced Instructor certification. Sarah works at Chastain Horse Park as the volunteer coordinator and teaches at Angels on Horseback.

3:45 – 4:45 pm

### **D4, Cost Analysis: Your Value Proposition and Program Sustainability CE**

This presentation will focus on the use of cost analysis and a discussion of the value proposition to enhance sustainability for your program. We will examine ways to calculate actual cost per service and how to use this as a tool to support program operation, set fee levels and understand fundraising needs. Discussion will be on the gap between tuition and actual cost as well as ways to communicate the value of services to the community.

**Kathy Alm** see *bio under C4*.

4:45 – 5 p.m. **BREAK**

5 – 6 p.m. **State Meetings**

6 – 8 p.m. **PATH Intl. Region 5 Awards Dinner, Region Meeting and Field Test Standards  
With Keynote - TJ Moon**

**Thomas Moon** is a self-advocate, author and motivational speaker. He is a business owner and entrepreneur. He is a 2010 graduate of Partners in Policy Making, was president of the Ocala Business Leaders in 2012 and was appointed to the Florida Development Disability Council by Governor Scott in 2013. He is a founding member of the Marion County Disability Alliance. Thomas was Best Leader under 55 by Ocala Magazine and was the 2011 recipient of the Idelio Valdes Leadership and Advocacy Award. Visit [www.disability.org](http://www.disability.org) for more information.



"I am an upbeat guy, a very likeable person. I am a product of the foster care system. I was adopted at the age of 11. Before that, I grew up in foster care in Pennsylvania and Florida. I have cerebral palsy which weakens muscle coordination. I use a wheelchair most of the time but can walk with supports. Growing up in foster care is difficult. Being disabled, being different and growing up in foster care is very difficult. However, I am a survivor."

**Sunday, August 4, 2019**

**Barn Day at MTRA**

8:30 – 9 a.m. Arrival

9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

**E1, Getting Your Horses Through the Storm CE, CR ESMHL**

First line of action in horse health problems. Learn to properly care for your horses in an emergency as well as being prepared for a storm.

**Luis Cadena, DVM**, has loved horses and medicine his whole life. Veterinary medicine offered him the perfect opportunity to combine the two interests. Luis graduated from St. George University of Veterinary Medicine in 2011. Although he enjoys the challenge of general medicine, Luis' passion is equine reproduction.

**E2, Advanced Equine Therapies CE, CR ESMHL**

Learn about lameness diagnostics and treatment methods.

**Alberto Rullan, DVM**, graduated from University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine in 2006. He obtained advanced training in diagnostic and therapeutic techniques in equine medicine and surgery.

**E3, Equine Massage Therapy CE, CR ESMHL**

To be able to provide relief to program horses through massage therapy. This will be accomplished through learning massage techniques to release muscle spasms, reduce lactic accumulation in the muscle tissue and increase flexibility.

**Lee Whitted** has been a licensed massage therapist since 1990 and equine massage therapist since 1992. Lee has owned both pleasure and race horses her entire life. Lee currently practices massage therapy in Gainesville, Florida.

#### **E4, Fun With the Farrier CE, CR ESMHL**

Corrective trimming focusing on hoof issues, soundness and confirmation faults.

**Bobby Sears** has been a professional farrier for over 30 years. He specializes in corrective shoeing and trimming for all breeds and disciplines.

**Catherine Sears Koch** has been a certified apprentice farrier for 15+ years.

#### **E5, The Best Green Farm Practices CE, CR ESMHL**

Learn best practices for pasture management, manure management, composting, soil levels and fertilization.

**Caitlin Bainum, Livestock Agent UF/IAFS**, is currently the Extension Agent 1, Farm Outreach Coordinator for Marion County Florida. She works closely with the equine farms in the Marion County area to help with the best green practices and reducing the carbon "hoof print."

10:05 a.m. – 11:05 a.m.

#### **F1, Getting Your Horses Through the Storm CE, CR ESMHL**

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11:10 a.m. – 12:10 pm

### **G1, Getting Your Horses Through the Storm CE, CR ESMHL**

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**We look forward to seeing you soon in Ocala, Florida!**