

PATH Intl. Regional Conference

**Produced
by PATH Intl. Region 8
in Partnership and
Sponsored by
Lone Star Therapeutic
Equestrian Network**



July 30 - August 1, 2021

Hosted by:

**Runnin' WJ Ranch
Texarkana, Texas**

PATH Intl. Region 8 and LSTEN welcome you to an educational and fun weekend with your friends and colleagues in wonderful Texarkana, Texas. Your registration fee includes Saturday lunch and dinner with a special guest speaker. We look forward to a weekend of education, networking and support in celebration of our industry.

CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Arkansas Convention Center Texarkana
5200 Convention Plaza Dr
Texarkana, AR 71854

SUNDAY

Runnin' WJ Ranch
4802 South Kings Highway
Texarkana, TX 75501

Lodging Options

Holiday Inn Texarkana Arkansas Convention Center
5200 Convention Plaza Dr. Texarkana AR 71854
Rate: Single \$79 + tax; Double \$85 + tax
Group Name: LSTEN

Best Western Plus Texarkana Inn & Suites
5219 Crossroads Pkwy, Texarkana, AR 71854
Rate: Single \$70 + tax; Double \$75 + tax
Group Name: LSTEN

Comfort Suites Texarkana Arkansas
5400 Crossroads Pkwy. Texarkana AR 71854
Rate: Single: \$64 + tax; Double \$64 + tax
Group Name: LSTEN

PATH INTL. CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Online registration will be available May 21, 2021 through July 16, 2021. After July 16, 2021 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 May 21, 2021 through July 16, 2021:

Full Conference: \$140 members \$190 non-members
\$130 Higher Ed Student/Faculty \$120 PATH Intl. Higher Ed Student/Faculty Member

Registration on-site after July 16, 2021:

Full Conference: \$170 members \$220 non-members
\$160 Higher Ed Student/Faculty \$150 PATH Intl. Higher Ed Student/Faculty Member

Refund Policy:

No refunds due to weather unless the conference is canceled.

All efforts will be taken to ensure the safety of conference attendees, and local guidelines regarding safe COVID-19 practices will be strictly enforced. If we are unable to gather for an in-person conference due to COVID-19 mandates, a virtual conference option will be provided at the same registration rate.

Written cancellation request is required for refund. Email manderson@pathintl.org

Deadline for Full Refund – Request received in PATH Intl. office by **July 16, 2021.**

Deadline for 50% Refund - Request received in PATH Intl. office by **August 1, 2021.**

Individuals who do not submit a written request to PATH Intl. by August 1, 2021, will not receive a refund.

Education:

This conference satisfies up to 11 hours of continuing education requirements.

TYPE	DESCRIPTION	CEU Conversion
DE	Disability Education	60 min = 1 DE
CR	Certification Core Requirement	60 min = 1 CR
CE	General Continuing Education	60 min = 1 CE

AGENDA

All times are Central Daylight Time.

Friday, July 30, 2021

Arkansas Convention Center Texarkana

12:15 - 1:15 p.m. **Registration, Welcome & Facilitated Networking**

Session A

1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

A1, OPEN

A2, PATH Intl. Standards and Centers Part 1 CE

An overview of the 2021 PATH Intl. Standards and how they apply to centers.

Joan Cutler is a PATH Intl. Certified Therapeutic Riding instructor, Advanced Instructor, Level 1 Driving Instructor and Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning. Joan is currently the veteran program manager for Equest in Dallas, TX. Joan has been involved with therapeutic horsemanship since 1992, starting as a volunteer at Equest. Joan is involved with PATH Intl. as a volunteer, serving as a PATH Intl. Lead Site Visitor as well as an Associate Registered Level Instructor Evaluator. Joan was recently honored as the recipient of the 2019 James Brady Professional Achievement award.

2:30 - 2:45 p.m. **BREAK**

Session B

2:45 - 3:45 p.m.

B1, Understanding Challenging Behavior as Communication DE

An individual's behavior is an important form of communication. Challenging behaviors can often be misunderstood, especially with individuals who are non-vocal. By learning to understand what the behavior is telling us, we can respond to the individual and not the behavior by using a verbal behavior approach to learning and communication. Learn to understand the four functions of behavior, how to improve language and communication while reducing behavior, and gain an understanding of responding to the client or rider and not the behavior.

Brenda McCall is dedicated to inspiring learning. She attended Texas Tech University and completed her PhD degree in special education/applied behavior analysis with a research focus on peer mediated interventions to facilitate adolescents who are non-vocal. Brenda is a 10+ year special education teacher working with behavior challenged adolescents and an endorsed behavior coach. She is a lifelong horsewoman and has been involved in EAS for over 30 years. She is a USDF "L" graduate, a western dressage judge, the founder/executive director of Dream a Dream Therapeutic Horsemanship, and she is captivated by the spirit of the horse.

B2, PATH Intl. Standards and Centers Part 2 CE

Continuation of A2.

3:45 - 4 p.m.

BREAK

Session C

4 - 5 p.m.

C1, PATH Intl. Standards and Instructors Part 1 CE

An overview of the 2021 PATH Intl. Standards and how they apply to both current and prospective instructors and therapists. What you need to know and how to be compliant with the standards.

Joan Cutler see bio in Session A2.

C2, An Introductory Survey of Volunteer Administrators CE

Learn about the data collected through an EAS industry survey, and how continued research can help to shape the future of the industry. After an overview of the data, suggestions for developing industry best practices will be discussed as well as potential future research and how that might impact day-to-day operations of volunteer administrators in the EAS industry.

Amy Tripson, MEd, is a PATH Intl. Advanced Instructor, CTRI, Mentor and CVA (Certified in Volunteer Administration).

5 - 5:15 p.m.

BREAK

Session D

5:15 – 6:15 p.m.

D1, PATH Intl. Standards and Instructors Part 2 CE

Continuation of C1.

D2, Arena for Four or More: How to Attain and Manage Larger Class Sizes CE

Working with local schools and organizations are ways to help grow client numbers. It is also a way to reach individuals who would otherwise not be able to attain a service that a PATH Intl. PAC could provide. This can help centers operate to their fullest potential and connect with their community in a new way. The first half of this presentation will focus on ways that centers can start a relationship with local schools and organizations. Who do you call? How do you approach them? While centers often look forward to growing numbers, the center needs to understand the importance of being prepared to receive the type of new clients and the numbers of them. One class can consist of four to five individuals all at different learning and functioning levels. Instructors and centers must be open to the possibility of changing their classroom and arena management for a bigger and possibly more diverse class. The second half of this presentation focuses on classroom management skills that centers and instructors can utilize. Teaching a greater number of clients at once should not mean you lose the ability to give adequate one-on-one time with clients.

Corinna Mendez is the ranch supervisor at Morgan's Wonderland Camp in San Antonio, TX. She is a PATH Intl. Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor who teaches individuals of all ages and abilities in both riding and groundwork sessions. She received her master's of education degree in recreation administration from Angelo State University and is currently working on her certified therapeutic recreation specialist certification through the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Saturday, July 31, 2021

Arkansas Convention Center Texarkana

7 - 8 a.m.

Registration

8 - 8:30 a.m.

PATH Intl. Region 8 Regional Meeting

8:30 - 9 a.m.

LSTEN Annual Meeting

Session E

9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

E1, Behind the Behavior: Understanding Our Riders With Autism Spectrum Disorder Part 1 DE

Do you work with clients who display unpredictable or inappropriate social behavior, including aggression toward themselves, other people or animals? Do you struggle to find an effective way to communicate with riders who live in a parallel world? Understanding what triggers unwanted behavior is the first step to preventing it, and prevention is better than reaction.

Keith O'Connor, MA, CCC-SLP, is a speech and language pathologist for Katy ISD in Houston, Texas. He has extensive experience working with people with autism spectrum disorder in the school setting and as a therapeutic riding program volunteer.

Anthony Busacca is the education director for Reining Strength Therapeutic Horsemanship in Richmond, Texas. He is a PATH Intl. Master Riding Instructor, ESMHL and CTRI with over 30 years of experience in the therapeutic horsemanship profession.

E2, Premier Accreditation for Dummies, Uglies and Onesies CE

Why "My Center is TOO: small, poor, understaffed or ugly to become Premier Accredited" are bogus excuses. Following this step-by-step process, ANY center can work its way to successful accreditation. Walk away with a timeline, checklist and detailed spreadsheet for a site visit along with specific tips on how to build your team and even get your board involved. See a site visit book you can use as a template and laugh at what could have sunk a site visit so you can avoid them.

Natalea Watkins learned about therapeutic horseback riding after sustaining a spinal cord injury that's had her riding an electric "horse" for two decades. She showed up at the first session at Turning Point Ranch in Stillwater, OK, hoping to ride a "real horse" again. Instead, she's been a board member, treasurer, PATH Intl. Certified Instructor, volunteer, Special Olympics coach, mentor, PATH Intl. ESMHL, conference planner, web master, T-shirt designer and center representative for site visits at two locations.

10:15 - 10:30 a.m.

BREAK

Session F

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

F1, Behind The Behavior: Understanding Our Riders With Autism Spectrum Disorder Part 2 DE

Continuation of E1.

F2, Strategic Planning CE

Take the mystery out of strategic planning. Learn how to create and maintain a three-year rolling strategic plan in this interactive session. Includes examples and templates. You will leave with an outline for your center or your portion of the business.

John D'Andrea has 35+ years' experience in the aerospace, heavy equipment/agriculture and high tech industries doing operations, product development, manufacturing, supply chain and business process design. In addition, for the last 20 years he also worked in nonprofit space as a volunteer, board member and now executive director for a therapeutic horseback riding center.

11:30 - 11:45 a.m.

BREAK

11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Lunch and the PATH Intl. Update

1:15 - 1:45 p.m.

PATH Intl. Field Test Standards Hearing

1:45 - 2 p.m.

BREAK

Session G

2 - 3 p.m.

G1, How Does Your Horse Feel About That? A Review of Current Research Examining Welfare Implications for Horses in EAS Part 1 CE

What do we know about how equine-assisted services impacts our horses' welfare? How do horses experience different types of clients? Is EAS harder or easier on horses than recreational riding programs? In this presentation, we will review a comprehensive list of past and current peer-reviewed scientific research examining equine welfare in EAS and the unifying themes and conclusions. We will also touch on emerging ideas and priorities in research and speculate what the future of research in this field may look like.

***Christine Rudd** is a PhD student at Texas Tech University studying welfare indicators for horses working in equine-assisted services and is the lab manager for the Equine Assisted Counseling and Wellness Lab at TTU. She is a PATH Intl. Advanced Instructor and CTRI, serves on the PATH Intl. Equine Welfare Committee, and is a Level 2 Eventing instructor through the American Riding Instructor's Association. She worked as the equine manager and taught at Equest in Dallas, TX for three years before starting her PhD. She received her master's degree in equine science from Aberystwyth University in Wales, and her bachelor's degree in equestrian studies from Averett University in Danville, VA.*

G2, Center Sustainability and Navigating the New Normal CE

The pandemic's effect isn't just temporary. With the impact of COVID-19 on center operations came opportunities for centers to adapt and create new ways of fulfilling their mission. Many of these new or adapted programs continue to be a vital part of services offered as we navigate the ways the pandemic has permanently impacted center operations. The pandemic also brought new ways of fundraising and financial operations. Assessing best practices and determining how your center will deliver on its mission in a financially sustainable way is key to ongoing organizational health and success. Join Kathy Alm, CEO of PATH Intl., as she explores successful new business and program practices and provides you with an opportunity to see how you might continue to pivot your center to successfully operate now and into the future.

***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 services spans over 19 years with a passion that was ignited the moment she walked through the door at her first therapeutic riding center.*

3 - 3:15 p.m.

BREAK

Session H

3:15 - 4:15 p.m.

H1, How Does Your Horse Feel About That? A Review of Current Research Examining Welfare Implications for Horses in EAS Part 2 CE

Continuation of G1.

H2, Autism Spectrum Disorder: A General Overview and Implications for Equine-Assisted Services DE

This presentation will include an overview of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), its diagnosis, characteristics and common treatment approaches. Instructor tips for lesson planning, horse and tack assignment, communication style and behavior management strategies will also be discussed.

Shannon Middleton is a licensed speech language pathologist, PATH Intl. Certified Therapeutic Riding Instructor (CTRI), PATH Intl. Equine Specialist in Mental Health and Learning (ESMHL), and hippotherapy clinical specialist (HPCS). She has been incorporating equine movement into her speech therapy sessions for 15 years and has been a speech language pathologist for 29 years. She currently serves on the American Hippotherapy Certification Board (AHCB) and is a past member of the PATH Intl. Membership Outreach Committee as both chair and region representative.

4:15 - 4:30 p.m.

BREAK

Session I

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

I1, Down Syndrome: A General Overview and Considerations for Equine-Assisted Services DE

This presentation will include the definition, cause and general characteristics of Down syndrome. Atlantoaxial instability and PATH Intl. Precautions and Contraindications will be reviewed. Horse and tack selection as well as instructor tips will be discussed.

Shannon Middleton see bio in session H2.

I2, Be, Belong, Become: A MOUNTessori Program CR ALL

The goal of the presentation is for participants to realize options that simplify method and enhance effect; and to gain inspiration in designing EAS programming by introduction and exploration into the Hoofbeats Academy Program. In exploring the MOUNTessori environment, curriculum, student and staff, attendees will: a. learn about The Equibloom Method, selection, management, training and partnering with the horse; b. learn about MOUNTessori, the curriculum, environment and facilitation of services; and c. engage in Q&A discussion about our "discipline" with time to identify the partnership (aside of identifying ourselves/EAS) with the horse for healing as we do pleasure horses, show jumpers, reining horses, etc.

Meshelle Rives, PATH Intl. CTRI, is the ED and EAS provider at Hoofbeats Academy. Hoofbeats Academy was founded in 2005 (Equibloom TR) and became a PATH Intl. PAC in 2007. Hoofbeats Academy is the place where she can be, belong and become because she has "horse" on the brain! She belongs in a barn so she is and continues to become the best horsewoman possible. She created MOUNTessori, a curriculum for adaptive horsemanship students; and the Equibloom Method, a horse and rider management plan for any discipline. She has been a horse owner for more than 50 years. She has been a 4-H Champion, professional groom, multi-discipline trainer and instructor, jockey, barn manager, business founder, executive director, administrator and fundraiser. Contact Meshelle at hoofbeatsacademy.org.

5:30 - 5:45 p.m.

BREAK

5:45 - 6:15 p.m.

Facilitated Networking

6:15 - 6:45 p.m.

PATH Intl. Region 8 2020 & 2021 Awards Ceremony

6:45 - 8:45 p.m.

**Dinner With Guest Speaker Brian Donovan of "Kelly's Hollywood"
Film Screening with Q&A**

Honest and raw, *Kelly's Hollywood* tells the intimate story of an aspiring actor who brings his sister, born with Down syndrome, out to Los Angeles to pursue her dream of becoming a Hollywood diva. But as her health begins to fail and she becomes increasingly jealous of his fiancée, he is forced to confront his co-dependent sibling relationship and the threat it is posing to his engagement.

Brian Donovan has been a professional actor for more than 30 years in film, television and radio. He has worked on-screen with such luminaries as Jim Belushi, Jim Carrey and Angelina Jolie. He has been the announcer for Disney and voices countless animated heroes; currently as Rock Lee from the juggernaut hit, *Naruto*. Presently, he can be seen in the indie films, *Somebody's Mother* and *Fame-ish*. In addition, Brian has been the executive director of the Los Angeles Repertory Theater since 1994, producing and directing more than 50 inner-city high school workshops and live shows.

He is also the creator, writer and producer of the Mighty Me Training Camp, a top ranking child's self-empowerment program streamed by Discovery Education for more than five years. Brian lives in Los Angeles with his family and dog, Cosmo.

Sunday, August 1, 2021

Runnin' WJ Ranch

7:30 - 8 a.m.

Cowboy Church

8 - 8:30 a.m.

State Meetings With State Chairs

Session J

8:45 - 9:45 a.m.

J1, Logical Laterals Part 1 CR All

Learn how to introduce laterals to your equine partner on the ground and transition this to ridden work. Lateral work is essential for equine partners soundness as it shows them how to transfer weight from the forehead to the haunches. Every instructor and every equine partner is capable of doing this work when it is broken down into ATHENA horse training's system of clear, logical and progressive steps. You will learn: What are laterals - leg yield, shoulder in, renvers, travers, and half pass; Why is lateral work necessary to strengthen equine partners physically and mentally: How do you teach laterals to equine partners in a way that doesn't stress them out?

Betsy Kahl is a PATH Intl. Advanced Instructor and CTRI, and has taught lessons in New Hampshire, Ohio and Texas. Currently, she is as an instructor in the veteran's program at ROCK in Georgetown, TX, and travels to train other equine-assisted services professionals in classical work in-hand to strengthen and support their equine partners. Betsy has recently launched a nonprofit, Wonder Horse Ranch, and a business, Wonder Horse Equestrian LLC, to continue advancing opportunities for veterans, first responders, youth at risk, and others to learn the classical training system. Betsy completed her undergraduate work at the University of Notre Dame and earned her master's of social work degree at Cleveland State University. As a Licensed clinical social worker, Betsy has studied and practiced animal-assisted therapy, and has been able to partner with horses, dogs, turtles, snakes and skunks to connect with others and facilitate change.

J2, Three Dimensional Motion Study of Human, Horse & Camel Gait CE

A team of Baylor researchers has conducted a motion study of human, horse and camel gait using state-of-the-art motion capture equipment. The aim is to investigate and compare three-dimensional motion patterns generated during gait, and experienced by riders, as may be beneficial for therapeutic applications.

Brian A. Garner is an associate professor of mechanical engineering at Baylor University with a research focus in human biomechanics, musculoskeletal modeling and health-application machine design. Inspired by the benefits of hippotherapy, Dr. Garner developed a mechanical horse-riding simulator over many years with the vision of providing a complementary tool to expand access to the benefits of equine motion. With support from Baylor University, Dr. Garner founded Chariot Innovations Inc., as an outlet for innovative technologies that improve quality of life by utilizing movement to address disability and related healthcare challenges.

9:45 - 10 a.m.

BREAK

Session K

10 - 11 a.m.

K1, Logical Laterals Part 2 CR All

Continuation of J1.

K2, Baylor Autism Research Study With Horse Riding Simulator CE

A multidisciplinary team of professors at Baylor University is conducting a two-year study on the effects in children with autism of an intervention that involves riding on a mechanical horse riding simulator while multitasking with a variety of speech, puzzle and motor activities. Effects are being assessed for speech, language, behavior, gait, muscle coordination (EMG) and brain wave activity (EEG).

Brian A. Garner *see bio in session J2.*

Session L

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

L1, Roundtable Discussion for Instructors

L2, Roundtable Discussion for Administrators

We look forward to seeing you soon in Texarkana, Texas!