

I Promise, It's Possible: Providing Eagala Model Services at a therapeutic riding center

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Licensure Credentials: LCSW

Secondary Presenter: Jessica Denniston, MEd

Licensure Credentials: EAGALA ES, Masters of Education in Equestrian Education

Therapeutic Riding Centers are often hustling, bustling and diverse- therapeutic riding, hippotherapy, equine assisted learning, and mental health therapy, all happening on the same day, utilizing a variety of staff, serving different clientele, and working with many horses that have caseloads even more diverse than our staff. Where does Eagala fit in? How does the client-centered focus of being amongst the herd thrive at a PATH PAC? We'll discuss how it can, not only for the clients, but for the entire team- horses, staff, and volunteers included!

Objective 1: Participants will identify commonalities and differences between the two organizations

Objective 2: Participants will engage in conversation surrounding policies and administrative responsibilities of incorporating both organizations

Objective 3: Participants will utilize knowledge gained to discuss feasibility of incorporating Eagala Model Services at a therapeutic riding center

Presenter Bios:

Chester DeAngelis, LCSW, joined the StableStrides team in 2014 and moved into the role of Clinical Services Director in 2020. StableStrides has been a PATH PAC since 1989. Chester received his Master's in Social Work with a certificate in Animal Assisted Social Work from University of Denver's Graduate School of Social Work. Chester became Eagala certified in 2017. His experience includes over 9 years providing equine assisted services, working with children and youth in mental health interventions, and working with military and families in mental health intervention.

Jessica Denniston: Jessica is an Eagala certified equine specialist who is a member of the faculty at Emory and Henry College where she teaches in both the Equine Studies and the Equine Assisted Therapy degree programs. She holds a Master's degree in Education for Equestrian Education which led her onto the path of curriculum development. Having successfully developed equine-assisted therapy degree programs within two higher education institutions, she has a passion for sharing the Eagala model with students and clients alike.