

Bridging Minds and Hooves: Equine Assisted Continuing Education for Mental Health Professionals

Presenter Name: Susan Jung, Ed.S, MEd

Licensure Credentials: LPC, CPCS, Eagala certified

Secondary Presenter: Bobbi Woolwine, MSW

Licensure Credentials: LCSW, Eagala certified

To maintain their licensure, mental health practitioners are required to accumulate continuing education hours. These hours are crucial for staying updated with the latest developments in the field and for refining therapeutic skills. The Eagala Model provides a unique and compelling way to offer continuing education hours for licensed mental health practitioners to enhance their skills.

One of the key advantages of using equine assisted learning as a continuing education tool is its experiential nature. Mental health practitioners actively engage with horses and clients during sessions, gaining insights that transcend traditional classroom learning. This experiential learning not only enhances their therapeutic skills but also enriches their ability to connect with clients on a deeper level.

Objective 1: Participants will learn the rationale and benefits of integrating horses in their continuing education program.

Objective 2: Participants will utilize a framework for designing CE programs that are tailored to the needs of mental health practitioners, including identifying relevant topics.

Objective 3: Participants will create engaging and interactive equine learning experiences that promote active participation, knowledge retention, and skill development among mental health professionals.

Presenter Bios:

Susan earned her B.A. in Psychology, and M.Ed. and Ed.S. in Counseling from the University of Florida. Both equine assisted psychotherapy (EAP) and equine assisted learning (EAL) serve clients at Winning Strides. Susan is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Certified Professional Counselor Supervisor in the state of Georgia. She serves as the mental health professional on the Winning Strides team. She is also qualified to serve as ES. She served on the Board of Directors for EAGALA for seven years.

Susan serves as Adjunct Instructor at Wesleyan College in Macon. She teaches the Equine Assisted therapy courses through the Psychology Department.

Bobbi Woolwine, MSW, LCSW

Bobbi earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Tennessee and her Master's in Social Work from the University of Georgia. She provides equine assisted psychotherapy (EAP) and equine-assisted learning (EAL) to clients at Stride Ahead, Inc and Winning Strides. Bobbi is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the state of Georgia. She serves as a mental health professional on the Stride Ahead, Inc. and Winning Stride teams. She volunteered to serve as the EAGALA Network Coordinator for the state of Georgia in 2023.