Faculty

Joann Benjamin, PT, HPCS
Joann has been practicing physical therapy since 1983, and has been involved with equine assisted therapy and sports riding all of that time. She currently directs the Therapy Services program at Ride On, where Hippotherapy is used in treatment for children and adults in PT, OT and SLP. She is an AHA Faculty Coordinator, assisting in course development and teaching in the US and abroad. She is a Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist and served on the American Hippotherapy Certification Board. She served on the AHA Board and was the PT representative of the NARHA/PATH Health and Education Committee. She enjoys her position as the USEF Classification Coordinator and as an FEI classifier for Para Equestrian competition worldwide.

Ruth Dismuke-Blakely, MS/CCC-SLP, HPCS
Ruth, recipient of AHA, Inc's Therapist of the Year award in 2006, is the founder and director of Skyline Therapy Services near Albuquerque, New Mexico, a full time outpatient clinic that has specialized in using Hippotherapy within PT, OT, or SLP treatment for over 25 years. She is an AHA, Inc Faculty Coordinator, has served on the AHA, Inc Board of Directors and, as a Hippotherapy Clinical Specialist, continues on the American Hippotherapy Certification Board. She is a life long horsewoman - successfully breeding, training and showing quarter horses. She has lectured internationally and published numerous well-regarded articles on Hippotherapy.

Continuing Education
Therapy Services is a recognized Continuing Competency Approval Agency of the CA PT Board. PT's attending will earn 2.7 CCU's for CA for attendance at 27 hours of instruction. The California OT Board does not require courses to be approved for continuing competency. This course can be applied toward OT license renewal.

Directions/Hotel Information
Ride On is located in Chatsworth, California. Conveniently located at the Topanga Canyon exit off of the 118 freeway in the Northwest San Fernando Valley, the ranch address is 10860 Topanga Canyon Blvd. Recommended hotels are the Radisson (818.709.7054) or the Ramada Inn (818.998.5289), both in Chatsworth and within a 5 minute drive to the facility. Burbank airport is about 25 minutes away; LAX is about 45 minutes. The Amtrak station is in Chatsworth about 5 minutes from Ride On.
Equine Skills
A one day concentration on the horse; principles of horse management, movement and the importance of the quality of the horse working in hippotherapy. This is primarily hands on, non-mounted activities for the hippotherapy treatment team. Participants will work in teams of 2-4 with an opportunity for supervised learning, practice and feedback in equine skills.

Course objectives include: interpreting the body language of the horse; recognizing desirable conformation, soundness, movement qualities, gaits of the horse and signs of burnout; performing grooming, tacking, leading, ground handling and kind and humane treatment.

Treatment Principles
The curriculum is designed for entry level therapists (PT, OT, SLP, COTA, PTA) utilizing HPOT as a treatment strategy. Building on Equine Skills, the participant will explore the dynamic system of therapist, patient, horse handler and horse as is applied in Hippotherapy. Adapted riding instructors, administrators and others interested in HPOT principles are welcome to attend.

Course objectives include: history and development of HPOT, understanding horse's movement and the interaction of horse/human, horse suitability, appropriate horse handling, tack and equipment selection, safety principles, patient and horse selection, precautions and contraindications, patient evaluation, maximizing the effects of equine movement including school figures and movement progression, the role of the HPOT team members, business aspects, and current research.

The curriculum may be utilized only under conditions set by AHA, Inc.

Registration Information
Registration is limited. Deadline is Sept 18, 2013.
The cost of the course for AHA, Inc members is $725. Cancellation requests, in writing, will be honored if received more than 14 days prior to the course, minus a $50 administrative fee. Cancellations less than 14 days prior to the start of the course will forfeit all fees. Registration may be transferred. In the event of course cancellation by Therapy Services or by AHA, Inc, a full refund will be provided.

During the course you will be on and/or working directly with the horses. Please have appropriate clothing/footwear. Helmets will be provided. You will be asked to sign a release of liability. If your weight exceeds 180#, you will be excused from the mounted portion of the course. If you have any special needs such as physical accommodations or health restrictions which may limit your physical participation in the practicum, please indicate these on the registration form.

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Registration Form
Registration Deadline - Sept 18, 2013

Name ________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
City/State/Zip __________________________________________
Phone ________________________________
E-Mail __________________________________________
Profession/License# _____________________________

Special needs—health restrictions/diet/etc
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

☐ Equine Skills & Treatment Principles $725 (AHA Member)
☐ $850 (Non AHA)

(Prerequisite for the course is the completion of an online Intro to Equine Skills test reviewing equine care and management. Successful completion of the test must be at least 2 weeks prior to the start of the course.)

☐ Check - please make payable to Ride On
☐ Credit Card VISA MasterCard AmEx

Name on Card ____________________________
Card #: ____________________________
Expiration ____________________________ Security Code ____________

Questions? Contact Joann Benjamin
Phone 818.700.2971 or 818.903.4768 or e-mail joann @RideOn.org
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