Optimal Terminology for Services in the United States That Incorporate Horses to Benefit People: A Consensus Document

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Why Optimal Terminology?

To reduce confusion and better meet the needs of the following stakeholders:

- Consumers – individuals, and organizations
- Researchers – increasing the credibility of all Equine-assisted Services (EAS)
- Service Providers – clarity about services offered and addressing liability
- Service Funders – insurance and philanthropic funding
**Consensus-building Process**

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<td>Step 1</td>
<td>Fund and design process</td>
<td>Working Group</td>
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<td>Step 2</td>
<td>Design and conduct terminology survey</td>
<td>Working Group, Summit Group</td>
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<td>Step 3</td>
<td>Hold terminology summit</td>
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<td>Step 4</td>
<td>Develop 1st draft; submit for review</td>
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<td>Review feedback; finalize recommendations</td>
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<td>Approve final recommendations</td>
<td>Summit Group, Boards of Directors of national organizations</td>
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Unifying Term

Equine-assisted Services
Therapy

Therapy-first Language

Counseling
Occupational Therapy
Physical Therapy
Psychotherapy
Recreational Therapy
Speech-Language Pathology
Examples Of Therapy—First Language

• physical therapy using equine movement
• psychotherapy incorporating horses
Or
• occupational therapy in an equine environment
Learning

Equine-assisted Learning in Education

Equine-assisted Learning in Organizations

Equine-assisted Learning in Personal Growth
Terms Recommended for Discontinuation

- Equine Therapy
- Equine-assisted Activities and Therapies
- Equine-assisted Therapy
- Equestrian Therapy
- Hippotherapist
- Hippotherapy Program
- Horse Therapy
- Therapy Riding
Discussion and Questions