

Meeting Summary for HETI Live

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Quick recap

Laurence led a virtual meeting with participants from around the world, discussing the idea of creating a visual representation of the various services included in EAS, and the need for a standardized chart or chart system to describe the services provided by equine assistance professionals. The team also discussed the importance of understanding the terminology used in different countries, the need for a broader approach that could encompass various professions, and the importance of standardizing terminology worldwide. The conversation ended with the understanding that the development of such a chart would be a significant project, and the next meeting was set to focus on the Asia Pacific network.

Next steps

Heti Terminology Task Force to consider creating a visual chart representing various equine-assisted services (EAS)
HetI Terminology Task Force to work on standardizing terminology for EAS across different countries
HetI to explore creating a chart focused on user/client perspective rather than provider perspective
HetI to consider including equestrian sports and programs in the EAS chart
HetI to investigate how to represent different professional qualifications and certifications in the EAS chart
HetI to explore ways to make the EAS chart inclusive of different systems and methods worldwide
HetI to consider separating equestrian training and instruction from therapy services in the chart
HetI to research how to represent the multidisciplinary nature of EAS teams in the chart
HetI to investigate how to incorporate equine welfare and horsemanship skills into the EAS chart
HetI to explore ways to represent both therapy and non-therapy EAS services in the chart
HetI to consider how to include research perspectives in the EAS chart
HetI members to email additional thoughts and suggestions about the EAS chart to the organizers
HetI to plan future discussions on EAS chart development and terminology standardization
HetI to share information about the upcoming Asia Pacific network meeting in February

Summary

Virtual Meeting with Heti's members

Laurence hosts a virtual meeting with participants from around the world. She ensures the AI captioning is enabled and asks attendees to turn on their cameras. Participants from Greece, America, and Finland also attend. Laurence plans to have everyone introduce themselves before proceeding with the meeting agenda.

Participants Introduce Themselves and Discuss

In the meeting, Laurence led a discussion with various participants from different countries and backgrounds, including Lesley, Elizabeth, Anna, Harriet, Xenia, Marcie, Lynn, Carol, Carlos, Vera, and Leticia. The participants introduced

themselves and shared their areas of expertise, which included therapeutic riding, physiotherapy, equine-assisted services, and mental health. **Total: 28 participants.** The conversation ended with the participants agreeing to continue the discussion via email.

EAS Visual Representation Discussion

In the meeting, Laurence proposed the idea of creating a visual representation of the various services included in EAS, aiming to simplify international collaboration, provide statistics, and highlight success stories. She presented four examples of organizational charts, each with a different layout and categorization of services. The team was asked to provide feedback on the relevance and achievability of the task, their agreement with the charts, and any proposed changes or alternative organizational structures. Some team members, such as Lorrie and Marcie, raised questions and concerns about specific aspects of the charts, including the term "Virtus" and the absence of occupational therapy in one chart (PATH Intl.).

Qualifications and Standards in Equine Therapy

- ⊗ Marcie expressed concerns about the qualifications and expertise required for professionals to work with horses, especially when they add the horse to their field of expertise. She suggested an international program for training, testing, and licensure.
- ⊗ Harriet proposed turning the focus of organizational charts from providers to service users, categorizing needs rather than professionals.
- ⊗ Elizabeth shared that in the UK, postgraduate training for therapists includes coursework on horse behavior and psychology.
- ⊗ Sarah highlighted the differences in standards and regulation across countries, making international charts challenging.
- ⊗ Laurence proposed a visual chart that could accommodate different standards and practices worldwide, without implying superiority.
- ⊗ Sanna discussed the legal recognition of equine facilitated therapy in Finland and Greece, respectively.
- ⊗ Alexandra added that Greece lacks an established educational system for equine therapy.
- ⊗ Lorrie emphasized the need to understand the terminology used in different countries to avoid confusion.

Standardizing Equine Assistance Services Chart

The meeting focused on the need for a standardized chart or chart system to describe the services provided by equine assistance professionals. The participants discussed the importance of understanding the terminology used in different countries and the need for a broader approach that could encompass various professions. The idea of starting with the client's perspective and describing the services offered rather than focusing on the provider was also discussed. The participants agreed that a chart could be useful, but it would need to be carefully designed and inclusive of all relevant information. The conversation ended with the understanding that the development of such a chart would be a significant project.

Inclusive Terminology and User-Centric Services

- ⊗ Carlos proposed the use of inclusive terminology and the combination of charts to better understand the services provided.
- ⊗ Anna suggested looking at services from the user's perspective, rather than focusing on specific conditions or sectors. She proposed considering the persona or profile of the user and how the service might help them.

- ⌘ Carol emphasized the importance of standardizing terminology worldwide and reaching a consensus on it. She also highlighted the need for a chart that could be universally understood.
- ⌘ Helena from Portugal discussed the importance of separating trainer roles from therapy roles and the need for certifications and qualifications for instructors.
- ⌘ The team also discussed the need for a holistic approach to improving the quality of life for users.

EAS Simple Chart and Meeting Schedule

Laurence expressed gratitude for everyone's participation and encouraged further sharing of thoughts and opinions. The team discussed the importance of the Simple Chart in conveying the breadth of EAS to service users and other stakeholders. The next meeting was set to focus on the Asia Pacific network. Vera and Jemma discussed the time converter on the Heti page to help with scheduling. Margaret joined late, having been on a writing for disabled meeting, and expressed her anticipation for the next meeting.