

## **EAGALA's Certification Programme**

EAGALA is dedicated to improving the mental health of individuals, families, and groups around the world by **setting the standard of excellence in Equine Assisted Psychotherapy**. Based on the feedback from our membership and from our experience of training over the years, this revised certification structure was developed to accomplish this vision.

This program certifies professionals in the EAGALA Model of Equine Assisted Psychotherapy. Certification ensures that practitioners have completed training and skill requirements in effective and ethical practice, participate in ongoing learning and education, and uphold a high standard of care.

### **Certification Process**

The EAGALA Certification process involves a learning structure with two certification levels: EAGALA Certification and EAGALA Advanced Certification.

#### **I. To obtain EAGALA Certification:**

- 1) Complete Fundamentals of EAGALA Model Practice Training Part 1
- 2) Professional Development Portfolio submitted
- 3) Complete Fundamentals of EAGALA Model Practice Training Part 2

#### **II. To obtain EAGALA Advanced Certification:**

- 1) Complete EAGALA Certification
- 2) Complete Fundamentals of EAGALA Model Practice Training Part 1 a second time as a returnee
- 3) Attend one EAGALA Annual Conference
- 4) Submit an article that is accepted for publication in EAGALA News
- 5) Complete 150 hours EAGALA client sessions (post EAGALA Certification) with Mentoring
- 6) Complete Advanced Training requirement (determined through Mentoring)

### **About the Certification Process**

EAGALA's certification program trains professionals and upholds a standard of excellence in ethics, practice, and professionalism in EAGALA Model practice. Consistent with our organization's name, the EAGALA certification process is designed with a focus on growth and learning for the professional. We believe the characteristics of a quality professional include openness to learning, and participating in ongoing personal and professional development.

#### **Trainings**

- 1) **Fundamentals of EAGALA Model Practice Training Part 1** (3 days)
  - a) Experiential, hands-on workshop where participants learn the basic foundations of EAGALA Model practice (theory and beginning application)
  - b) Anyone may attend (no pre-requisites required)

- c) Returnee process – after attendance at one, professional may continue to attend as many Part 1’s as he/she would like at a reduced fee
- 2) **Fundamentals of EAGALA Model Practice Training Part 2** (3 days)
- a) Part 1 must be completed before Part 2. Part 2 must be completed within 3 years of completing Part 1.
  - b) Fundamentals Part 2 is an experiential, hands-on workshop which solidifies skills, competence, and professionalism in EAGALA Model practice and ethics (application).
  - c) Returnee process - after attendance, professional may continue to attend as many Part 2’s as he/she would like at a reduced fee.
- 3) **Advanced Certification training requirement**
- a) Advanced training requirement is an individualized professional development training experience chosen through the Mentoring process.
  - b) Advanced training requirement needs to build practical and professional development skills in facilitating EAGALA Model sessions.

### **Standards of each team member in EAGALA Model practice**

The EAGALA Model requires a co-facilitating team that must include a mental health professional and an equine specialist professional in all sessions. The following delineates minimum standards that must be met to practice in one of these roles on the team. The EAGALA training manual, website, and international affiliates further specify standards that may be specific to various regions. If a practitioner does not meet the standards of one of these roles, the practitioner may serve as an additional member of the team (i.e. 3-person team).

#### **Mental Health Professional –**

- 1) Professional needs to have college-level educational training and degree in a mental health field, such as social work, psychology, marriage and family therapy, or others that include mental health as its scope of practice.
- 2) Professional must stay within his/her scope of practice and follow region, country, or state laws and regulations regarding mental health practice.
- 3) Professional needs to be under a governing board/body or member of an association that can hold him/her accountable (or under professional supervision by a supervisor that is held accountable by a governing board/association), i.e. a board that can revoke registration, certification, accreditation, or licensure for ethical or scope of practice violations relating to mental health practice.

#### **Equine Specialist Professional –**

- 1) Professional must have 6,000 hours (equals to approx. 3 years full-time work) experience hands-on work with horses.
- 2) Professional must have completed at least 100 hours of continuing education in the horse profession. Some of this education needs to include topics covering:
  - a) Ground work experience
  - b) Horse psychology knowledge
  - c) Ability to read horse body language/nonverbal communication
- 3) 40 hours of the continuing education listed in #2 must have been completed in the last 2 years.

## **Professional Development Portfolio**

Prior to attending the Fundamentals Part 2 training, the applicant will turn in a Professional Development Portfolio which will be kept on file at the EAGALA office. This will be a typed paper that consists of:

- 1) Name, address, email, phone, and date
- 2) “I (name) commit to adhering to EAGALA’s standards and ethical code.” (signature)
- 3) Answer the following questions:
  - a) Why do you wish to work as an EAGALA Model facilitator?
  - b) What strengths do you bring to this?
  - c) What areas of growth, learning, and professional development do you wish to focus?
- 4) Explanation/resume with any supporting documentation indicating professional qualifications for role in EAGALA team.

## **Certification Renewal**

- 1) EAGALA Certifications expire every 2 years
- 2) To renew certifications:
  - a) Remain a member of EAGALA
  - b) Complete 40 hours continuing education
  - c) Complete certification renewal form with fee – new certificate will be sent

## **Continuing Education**

- 1) Ongoing learning and striving to improve is the key to quality and professionalism
- 2) 40 hours continuing education is needed every two years for certification renewal and must include –
  - a) 20 hours EAGALA approved education (a list of EAGALA approved education options may be obtained on the EAGALA website or by contacting EAGALA)
  - b) 20 hours continuing professional education (learning done in your professional field)
- 3) The continuing education requirement is meant to encourage learning above and beyond the personal experience gained by doing the work professionally. Continuing education involves learning from other professionals or structured/approved educational experiences.
- 4) The certification renewal application requires a list of continuing education completed during the two-year time period (name, type, date, and number of hours).

## **Mentoring**

- 1) After EAGALA Certification, Mentoring is available to assist practitioners in their work with clients by providing individualized feedback and skill-building in EAGALA Model ethics and practice.
- 2) Mentoring places a structure that supports a high standard of professional and ethical practice through peer-review, consultation, and “supervision,” and adds a layer of quality of care for the clients.
- 3) Mentoring is a required pre-requisite for EAGALA Advanced Certification.
- 4) Mentoring involves written case notes (session profiles) and email/phone communications.

- 5) Mentoring is provided by an approved list of EAGALA Mentors who have a minimum of EAGALA Advanced Certification and have completed an application process and ongoing training expectations.
- 6) Mentoring process is not designed to be legal clinical supervision. If an organization or licensure requires supervision, that is a separate process which is the responsibility of the professional
- 7) Mentoring with EAGALA approved mentors can be applied as EAGALA continuing education for certification renewal.

### **Certification/Membership Expiration**

*Note: Membership dues are a separate fee from Certification renewal.*

- 1) If Membership expires during certification renewal period, professional must pay past due membership fees to renew certification
- 2) If Certification expires past one year, the certification status becomes inactive
- 3) To re-activate certification, the professional must re-take the Fundamentals Part 1 workshop (may attend at Part 1 returnee rate)
- 4) Certification date will start with re-activation (not initial certification)

### **2007 Fees**

*Fees listed below are individual rates. Rates are discounted for some workshops for groups and students.*

1. Fundamentals of EAGALA Model Practice Training Part 1	£350
2. Fundamentals of EAGALA Model Practice Training Part 2	£385
3. EAGALA Annual Conference	£TBA
4. Mentoring process	approx. £300
5. Advanced Training requirement	approx. £300
6. Certification Renewals	£ 10
7. Returnee fee for Fundamentals Training Part 1	\$ 75
8. Returnee fee for Fundamentals Part 2 (returnees are full participants)	£195

### **Grandfathering** (Applies to all who have received EAGALA certification through 2006)

With this re-structure, current EAGALA certified members will have the opportunity to be grandfathered into the new system. This will work in the following manner:

- 1) **EAGALA Level 1** – Remain EAGALA Certified – terminology will change when a new certificate is issued when renewing. The Fundamentals Training Part 2 will need to be completed to move to Advanced Certification.
- 2) **EAGALA Level 2** – Remain EAGALA Certified – Level 2 terminology may be used until expiration date in 2009. New certificate will be issued in 2009 with either EAGALA Certification or Advanced Certification depending on completion of Advanced requirements. Advanced Certification may be received after completion of Mentoring process with 150 hours of EAGALA client work post Level 2.
- 3) **EAGALA Level 3** – Receive Advanced Certification certificate. New renewal requirements will be in place (renewal and continuing education required every 2 years).