

Ravensong Counseling: Equine Assisted Counseling Participation Policy

Business Hours: Thursday – Saturday by appointment only.

Age Requirement: The minimum age to participate in our program is 12 years old.

Application Process: To begin the application process, please sign and return the following forms:

- Meadowlark Equestrian Center Barn Rules
- Meadowlark Equestrian Center Covid 19 Protocols
- Meadowlark Equestrian Center Visitor Participation Liability Release
- Ravensong Counseling Hold Harmless Agreement

Once we receive and review the completed forms, we will contact you to set up an orientation. Every new client meets with Robin for a one hour orientation to discuss historical information and goals. The orientation session takes place at Kara Lee and Associates and not at the farm.

Scheduling: Ravensong Counseling offers individual sessions on a weekly basis nearly year round (weather dependent). Session content will be determined based on the specific needs and goals of the individual. Sessions are scheduled for 50 minutes, but may conclude early depending on client needs.

Attendance: We have a 24-hour cancelation policy so that staff may be notified. Cancellations due to unforeseen emergencies will not be billed. The first no-show session will be billed. Client will be subject to dismissal after two no-show appointments.

Weather Cancellations: In the case of inclement weather, Robin will coordinate with the individual client to determine the best course of action. Sessions may be canceled up to one hour prior to session time, at no charge. Sessions may be rescheduled.

Arrival Time: Participants should arrive at Meadowlark Equestrian Center 10 minutes prior to their session time and be prepared to start on time, as sessions will end on time to allow for the next participant to start on time. If you are late, the session will end as scheduled out of respect for other participants and staff. If you are early, your session will not last more than 50 minutes.

Attire: For those participating in our program, jeans are required. Shorts are not allowed. Closed-toed shoes or boots with a heel are preferred. No sweatpants, athletic or nylon pants are permitted. No crop tops or mid-drifts are allowed.

Session Prices: Professional counseling fees apply. Since this program includes a team approach and horses, it is more expensive than regular therapy. In addition to your regular co-pays and deductibles, you are required to pay an Equine Service Fee of \$50. This extra fee helps to offset the cost of the facility rental, liability insurance, and the cost of horse keeping. We appreciate your respect for our time and the added cost of doing this work. Private Pay available at \$95 per session.

Sessions: Equine assisted counseling sessions do not involve riding. All sessions are unmounted and done from the ground. Activities may include grooming, bathing, walking and feeding. For those interested in riding lessons, a referral will be made to the teaching staff at Meadowlark Equestrian Center.

Safety: Safety is paramount. ALL participants and observers must abide by the Meadowlark Equestrian Center barn safety rules, and sign a safety agreement, as well as a liability waiver. For your safety and that of our horses, treats will only be given to the horses per the discretion of the counselor. Hand feeding is not permitted.

Privacy and Confidentiality: As with traditional therapy, your personal information will remain confidential. Since Equine Assisted Counseling is the kind of therapy that you learn by doing, an intern might also be part of your team and be made aware of your history and goals for treatment. These team-members are trained in how to handle confidential information. In addition, since your Equine Assisted Counseling Session is on a working farm, it is possible that someone might stop by during your session. Please know that we will attend to this as quickly and with as little interruption as possible, should it happen during your session time.

Photo Release: Photos may be taken of me and used for the purposes of advertising.

No Consent: _____ Initial here to consent: _____

Hold Harmless Agreement: Although it is unlikely that you will be injured during our work with the horses, it is possible. In agreeing to participate in Equine Assisted Counseling, you also agree to abide by the Michigan Equine Liability Act which states "Under the Michigan Equine Activity Liability Act, an equine professional is not liable for an injury to or the death of a participant in an equine activity resulting from an inherent risk of the equine activity."

Having read the above, I, _____ agree to participate in Equine
(print your name)

Assisted Counseling with Robin Chaustowich and assume full responsibility for my physical safety while on the farm. I agree to pay the fees involved and understand the cancellation policy. I understand that some of my history and personal information may be shared with staff members as necessary to accomplish my treatment goals.

I further understand that photos of myself will not be taken or released without my express consent. As noted above. I understand these statements also apply to any minors to which I am guardian.

Ravensong Counseling reserves the right to discontinue the participation of an individual in its program when it is deemed in the best interest of Ravensong Counseling and/or the individual involved.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

(Client, Parent, Legal Guardian)

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

(Ravensong Counseling)