

Advancing Community Engagement and Service Institute (ACES): “Partnership Training Skills” ACES 2021 Report



An ACES-funded community-engagement
collaboration between UH and UH-Downtown
Social Work Programs

ACES 2021 Report

Prepared by

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Professor and

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Director, Child & Family Center for Innovative Research

Graduate College of Social Work
University of Houston

2021 ACES Project: Faculty

	Faculty	Role	Website
1	Dr. Monit Cheung	Principal Investigator (UH)	https://uh.edu/socialwork/about/faculty-directory/m-cheung/
2	Dr. Dawn McCarty	Co-Investigator (UHD)	https://www.uhd.edu/academics/public-service/social-work/Pages/dawn-mccarty.aspx
3	Dr. Trish Taylor	Instructor on Foster Parent Training	https://uh.edu/socialwork/about/admin/staff/p-taylor/
4	Ms. Arnitia Walker	Instructor on Case Reviews	https://uh.edu/socialwork/about/admin/staff/a-walker1/a-walker.php
5	Dr. Renita Laury	CWEP Director	https://uh.edu/socialwork/about/admin/staff/r-laury/

Funding Source:

ACES Project at the University of Houston

The Advancing Community Engagement and Service Institute (ACES) was launched in **2017** with the vision to deepen student learning through direct community service planning and implementation.

The promotion of service learning aims to combine real-world learning and community engagement so that our students become engaged learners and informed citizens.

ACES Grant Awarded for the Graduate College of Social Work (GCSW)

At the **University of Houston**, under the [Child & Family Center for Innovative Research at GCSW](#), we received a grant from [The Advancing Community Engagement and Service Institute](#) (ACES) at the [College of Education](#) to conduct a community-engagement collaboration project between UH and UH-Downtown Social Work Programs.

This ACES project was launched in **January 2019 and** continued until **August 2021** to promote service-learning that combines real-world education with community engagement so that our students become engaged learners and future leaders in their profession.

Time Frame, ACES 2021

April 23-
25:

Orientation
& Pretest

May:

Overview +
Community
Engagement

May to June:

Training
Preparation

July
4 Saturdays:

Training
Deliveries

Aug 2-5:

Debrief &
Posttest

ACES Project

STUDENTS:

1. Develop Curriculum/Training and pilot for Foster Parents
2. Integrate learning into actual practice through a comprehensive case study and discussions through mentoring
3. Engage with community partners
4. Earn a scholarship for successful course completion

Instructors:

Trish Taylor, PhD, LCSW (ptaylor2@central.uh.edu),

Arnitia Walker (amitcher7@central.uh.edu)

Renita Laury, PhD (rllaury@central.uh.edu)

Dawn McCarty, PhD (mccartyd@uhd.edu)

Principal Investigator:

Monit Cheung, PhD, LCSW (mcheung@uh.edu)

ACES for social work students

In this “**Partnership Training Skills**” Project, the MSW students from the UH campus mentored the BSW students from the UH-Downtown campus. Each pair of students planned, conducted, and evaluated foster-parent training for the [Texas Department of Family and Protective Services](#) as a part of our Title IV-E training commitment to reduce racism and discrimination and to increase child safety and protection.

The learning outcomes include **problem-solving, interpersonal communication, and interprofessional collaboration.**

ACES 2021

PTS Five Steps

1. Recruitment
2. Orientation
3. Learning & Training
4. Evaluation
5. Debriefing

Step 1: Recruiting and Selecting Students

At
UH and UHD

ACES Website with Scholarship Announcement

- [ACES Community Engagement Project - University of Houston \(uh.edu\)](https://uh.edu)

ACES Community Engagement Project

Partnership Training Skills: Connecting MSW and BSW Students on Two UH Campuses

- **ACES Community Engagement**

The Advancing Community Engagement and Service Institute (ACES) was launched in October 2017 with the vision to deepen student learning through direct community service planning and implementation. The Graduate College of Social Work (GCSW) received an ACES grant to implement a project titled “Partnership Training Skills: Connecting MSW and BSW Students in Two UH Campuses,” led by Principal Investigator Dr. Monit Cheung. From Spring 2021, a service learning course (“Partnership Training Skills” or PTS) was planned and delivered to infuse child welfare contents into the Master of Social Work (MSW) curriculum and to encourage Title IV-E students to work in practice projects with Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) students from University of Houston-Downtown (UHD).

Faculty team: UH and UH-D Collaboration



Left to Right: Dr. Dawn McCarty (UH-D), Dr. Trish Taylor (UH), Dr. Monit Cheung (UH), Ms. Arnitia Walker (UH), Dr. Renita Laury (UH)

Step 2: Orientation

	Agenda Item	Staff
1	Welcome and Introductions	Ms. Arnitia Walker
2	History of Project (Advancing Community Engagement and Service Institute Pre-Post-Training Evaluations	Dr. Monit Cheung
3	BSW Student Expectations/Class Instructions	Dr. Dawn McCarty
4	Preparation, CPS Overview, Case Reviews, & Community Engagement (Starting now – end of June)	Ms. Walker
5	Training Delivery (one Saturday in July)	Dr. Trish Taylor
6	Student Pairing and Breakout (10 minutes)	Dr. Cheung
7	Q & A	All
8	Schedule next meeting dates	Ms. Walker and Dr. Taylor

Scholarships for Encouraging Students' Community Engagement

Selected students earned a [scholarship](#) for their successful completion of the project. Faculty and staff from both UH campuses worked closely with these students and they were very excited about continuing this project.

Step 3: Community-Engaged Learning & Paired-Training

Purpose: For students to learn about child protection and foster parents' needs and deliver training to foster parents

Faculty-led Training:

MSW students being mentors

Paired with BSW students as mentees



2021 ACES Project: **Mentor-Mentee Pairing**

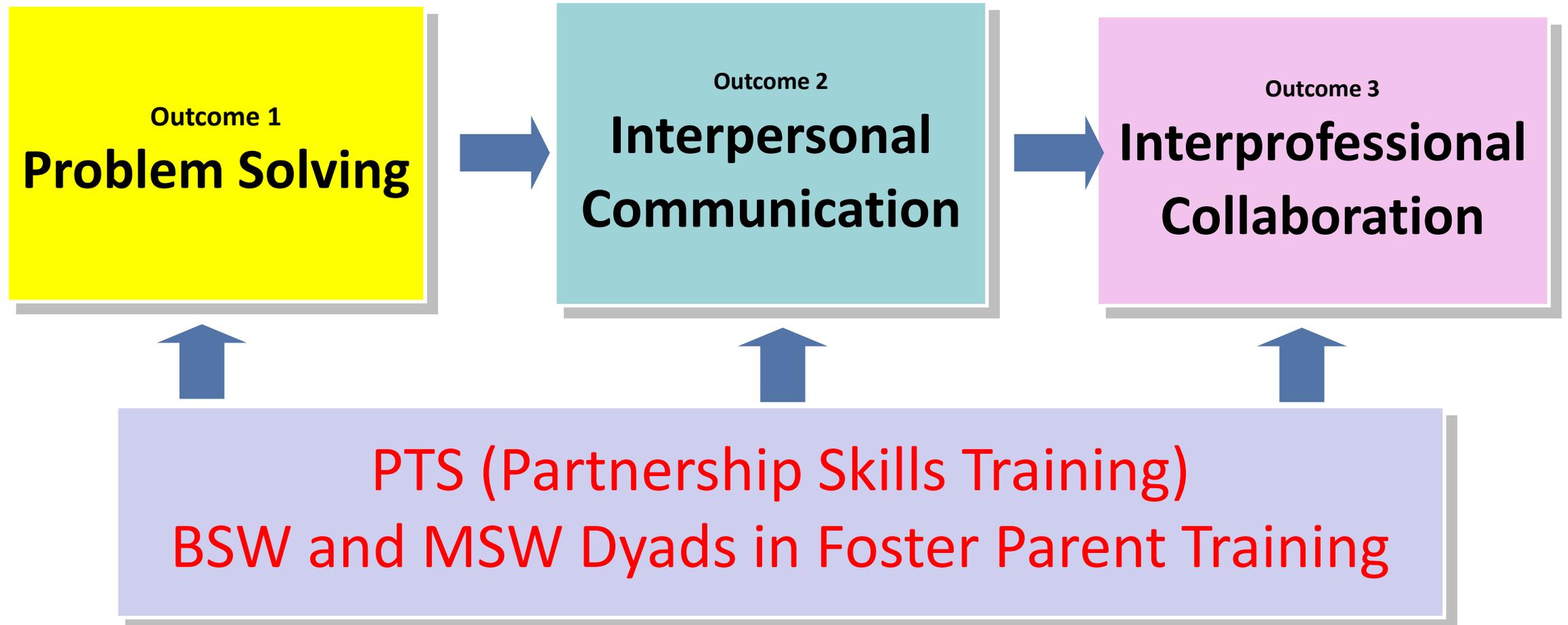
Team	UH	UHD	Training Topics
1	Jamekia Greene 281-703-7484	Michelle Bolden 832-857-6989	Supporting birth family connection and family relationships
2	Leslie Hagemeyer 979-256-5025	Lea Kiendrebeogo 832-618-2236	ACE's - Adverse Childhood Experiences
3	Ebonee Jones 832-589-8545	Emily Mendoza 713-302-5373	Foster parenting with COVID Realities
4	Sharon McNair 713-703-2186 (C) 979-549-7806 (W)	Ashley Ocampo 832-682-6565	Transitioning from PRIDE to Parenting

Step 4: Evaluation

Pre- and Post-Training evaluations on Project Outcomes to assess three levels of skills before and after the course and training



Outcome Evaluations



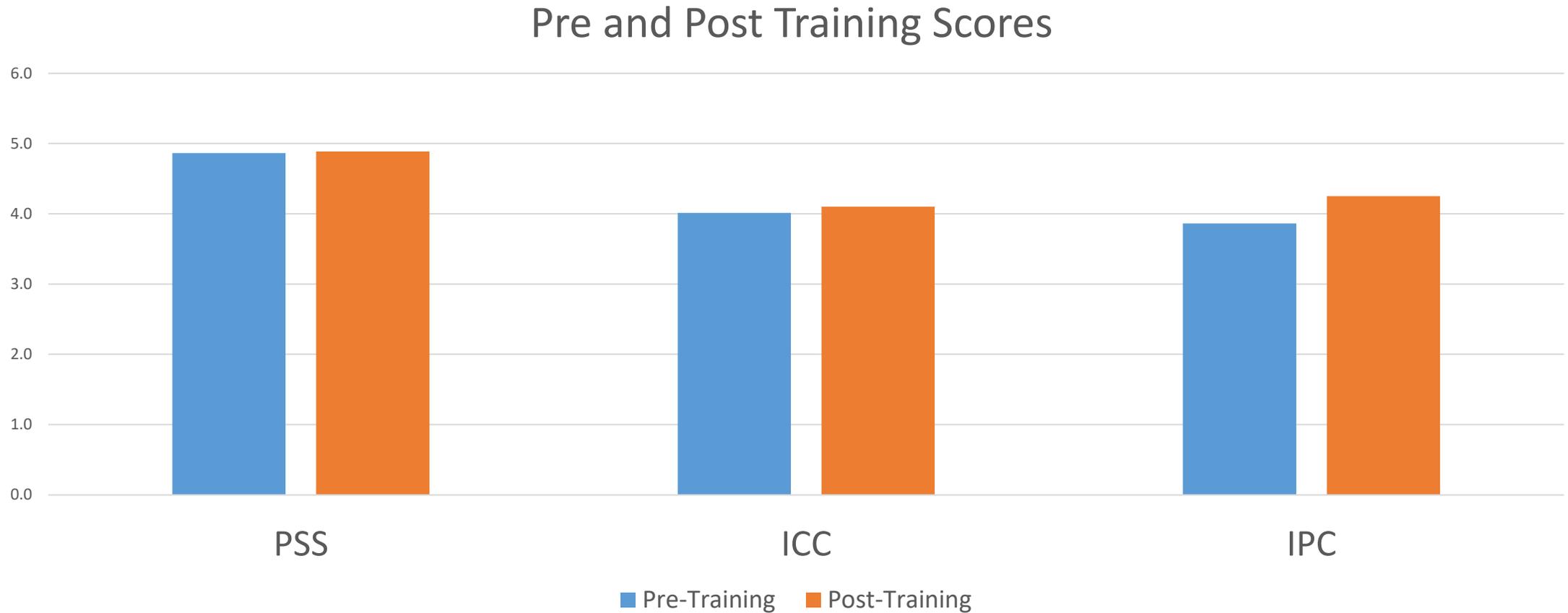
Project Outcomes

	Learning Goal	Course Outcome	ACES Outcome
Outcome #1	Problem Solving	Demonstrate knowledge and skills to identify strengths and obstacles when planning a foster-adoption training campaign	Students will be able to use appropriate problem solving strategies to solve real-world issues
Outcome #2	Communication	Enhance communication skills in designing and planning training programs for foster/ adoptive/ kinship parents	Students will be able to communicate effectively and appropriately with stakeholders
Outcome #3	Interpersonal Collaboration	Apply intra and interpersonal perspectives, knowledge, and skills when assessing the training needs and evaluating the outcomes of their work with the community they serve	Students will develop and apply intra- and interpersonal knowledge and skills that enhance their ability to successfully navigate professional situations

Project Outcomes for ACES 2021

Learning Goal	Standardized Measure	Pre-Training Outcome (n=8)	Post-Training Outcome (n=8)	Increase %	Paired t-test
Problem Solving	PSS (1-6) Problem-Solving Inventory	4.8636 SD=0.23	4.8864 SD=0.30	0.47%	0.290 <i>P</i> =.780
Communication	ICC (1-5) Interpersonal Communication Competence Scale	4.0125 SD=0.32	4.1000 SD=0.33	2.18%	1.263 <i>P</i> =.247
Interprofessional Collaboration	IPC (1-5) Interprofessional Collaboration	3.8625 SD=0.50	4.2500 SD=0.37	10.03%	2.180 <i>P</i> =.072

Pre and Post Training Paired-Mean Scores ACES 2021 (N=8)



Evaluation Remarks

1. All three areas have shown improvements after the community-engagement training.
2. “**Interprofessional Collaboration**” area had the greatest improvement.
3. More work is needed to prove training effectiveness.

Step 5: Debriefing Meeting

Let's hear what the 2021 cohorts have to say in the ACES 2021 Video:

<https://youtu.be/DpDtfBzA-MI>

Scholarships Awarded to Social Work Students

All funds received for this project were used for student scholarships:

- UH's MSW students: Each received $\$600 \times 4 = \2400
- UHD's BSW students: Each received $\$400 \times 4 = \1600

ACES fund: \$2500

CFCIR fund: \$300

UHD Matching Fund: \$1200

Final Words:

GCSW's Mission and Community Engagement

Community engagement is an excellent tool to help students appreciate ways to work with others to promote social, economic, political, educational, and environmental justice, which is the mission of the Graduate College of Social Work.

This partnership project empowers students to transform their mentorship experiences to working with families to promote child and family well-being. They can impact the life of the foster youth who need ***bonding continuity***, with both internal and external support.

University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work (GCSW)

GCSW Mission Statement

The University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work (GCSW) prepares diverse leaders in practice and research to address complex challenges and achieve sustainable social, racial, economic, and political justice, locally and globally, through exceptional education, innovative research, and meaningful community engagement.

GCSW Vision Statement

Our vision is to achieve social, racial, economic, and political justice, local to global.