



New England (HHS Region 1)

**MHTTC**

Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network

Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

# New England Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (New England MHTTC)

SAMHSA #1H79SM081775-01

Yale Program for Recovery and Community Health  
in partnership with  
C4 Innovations,  
Harvard University Department of Psychiatry, and the  
Center for Educational Improvement



FEBRUARY 13 - 16 *2023*

## REGIONAL TRAINING EVENT

Honoring Workforce  
Solutions to Support Care  
for Communities of Color



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## Welcome and Program Overview

**Maria E. Restrepo-Toro, MS**  
Co-Director

## Day Four:

**Innovations for a  
Sustainable Workforce**



**2023 Innovations  
Regional Training Event  
Day Three**



**Innovations for a  
Sustainable Workforce**

- 11:00 a.m.**      **Welcome and Program Overview**  
Maria E. Restrepo-Toro, MS, Co-Director  
New England MHTTC
- 11:10 a.m.**      **Opening Remarks**  
Paolo del Vecchio, MSW, Director  
Office of Management, Technology, and Operations and  
Director, Office of Recovery, SAMHSA
- 11:20 a.m.**      **Featured Presentation**  
Jonathan Edwards, Adjunct Faculty, Columbia School of Social Work
- 12:00 p.m.**      **Mindful Break**  
Sarah Johnson, MA, PS-C, Training and Technical Assistant Coordinator,  
AdCare Educational Institute of Maine, Inc.
- 12:10 p.m.**      **Innovations for a Sustainable Workforce**  
PROCEED, Inc., University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, The Mental  
Health ACCESS Program
- 12:50 p.m.**      **Closing Remarks**  
Janis Tondora, PsyD, Principal Investigator and Co-Director  
New England MHTTC
- 12:55 p.m.**      **Evaluation and Event Closeout**



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***SAMHSA***

Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

# Opening Remarks

Paolo del Vecchio, MSW  
Director, Office of Management,  
Technology, and Operations and  
Director, Office of Recovery,  
SAMHSA

# Featured Speaker



Jonathan P. Edwards, Ph.D.  
(he/him/his)

**Jonathan P. Edwards** is a social scientist, public health professional, licensed clinical social worker, and person in long-term recovery. He led the largest peer support workforce within the New York City Hospital system at Kings County Hospital Center in Brooklyn. Jonathan's contributions to peer support include research on job satisfaction, involvement with the National Association for Peer Supporters (N.A.P.S.) in developing National Practice Guidelines, and independent consultancy. He is also a Certified Peer Specialist and Certified Personal Medicine Coach. Dr. Edwards also serves as adjunct faculty at Columbia School of Social Work; has received several awards; and is co-editor of numerous articles and the recently published book, "What It Takes: Wisdom from Peer Support Specialists and Supervisors". Jonathan received his Ph.D. and M. Phil degrees in Social Welfare from City University of New York Graduate Center and Masters in Social Work from Hunter College.

# Peer Support: Discourse, Dimensions, Discovery

Jonathan P. Edwards, Ph.D., LCSW, ACSW, NYCPS  
February 16, 2023



A lit candle in a glass jar sits on a white surface, surrounded by several autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow. The background is dark and out of focus.

**Sarah Johnson,  
MA, PS-C**

**Training and Technical Assistant  
Coordinator, AdCare Educational  
Institute of Maine, Inc.**

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***Mindful  
Break***

# Innovations for a Sustainable Workforce



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**Stephanie Campos MPH, CHES**  
Program Manager  
PROCEED, Inc.

National Center for Training,  
Support, and Technical Assistance  
Manager  
PODER en SALUD project

# Expanding the Behavioral Health Workforce: Addressing the Crisis in Social Work Licensing

Luis R. Torres-Hostos, PhD  
Founding Dean & Professor  
School of Social Work

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

February 16, 2023

- ❑ Behavioral Health (Mental Health & Substance Use)  
Needs continue to increase
- ❑ Availability of licensed behavioral health professionals continues to lag
- ❑ Especially true in African American and Hispanic communities
- ❑ Licensing disparities have existed for decades and we're just beginning to realize the extent of the problem
- ❑ Social Work data released by ASWB last fall is alarming

# BACHELORS EXAM

## Between 2011 and 2021...

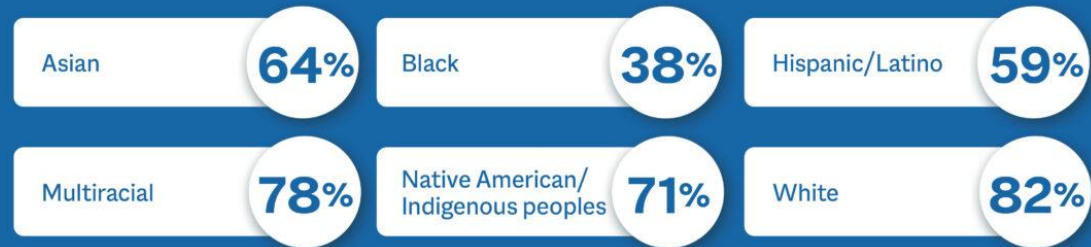


Exam volume increased slightly  
from 3,164 to 3,494

Members of historically marginalized groups increased as a proportion  
of the test-taker population by 4%

**81%** of all test-takers eventually passed

## 2018-2021 pass rates by demographic group



Gender 69% 73%

### Age categories



**74%** of test-takers whose primary  
language is English



**50%** of test-takers whose primary  
language is not English

# MASTERS EXAM

## Between 2011 and 2021...

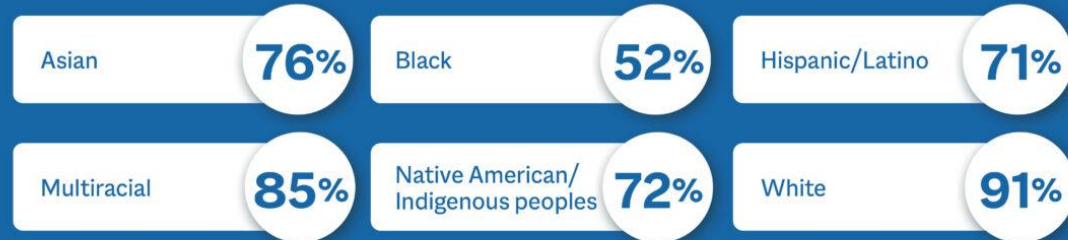


Exam volume nearly doubled  
from 11,260 to 21,650

Members of historically marginalized groups increased as a proportion  
of the test-taker population by 12%

**86%** of all test-takers eventually passed

## 2018-2021 pass rates by demographic group



Gender 78% 79%

### Age categories



**80%** of test-takers whose primary  
language is English



**63%** of test-takers whose primary  
language is not English

# CLINICAL EXAM

## Between 2011 and 2021...

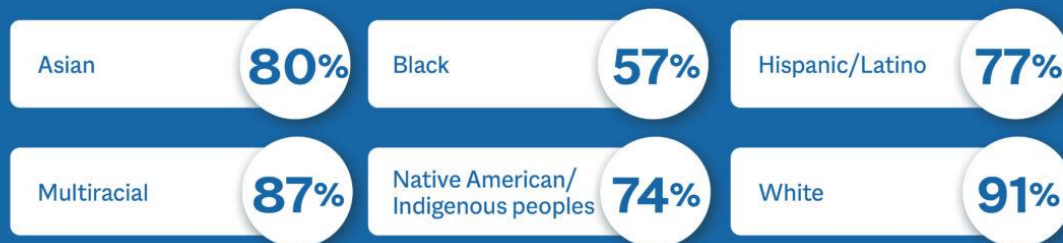


Exam volume more than doubled  
from 9,100 to 20,657

Members of historically marginalized groups increased as a proportion  
of the test-taker population by 14%

**88%** of all test-takers eventually passed

## 2018-2021 pass rates by demographic group



### Gender

♂ 80%

♀ 83%

### Age categories



**83%** of test-takers whose primary  
language is English



**70%** of test-takers whose primary  
language is not English

# What do we do?

- Organize professional associations
- Recommend (demand?) steps from ASWB
  - Fee to cover more than one attempt
  - Repeat only failed modules, not entire test
  - Release raw data
  - Work with social work professionals across the country to develop a test that better reflects the diversity in the field
- Explore alternatives to licensing
- State-by-state legislative efforts to push for change
- Continue to prepare our students to increase passing rates

# UTRGV School of Social Work Licensing Project

- 40 students per year (20 BSW, 20 MSSW)
- Apply in final fall semester, program in final spring
- Multiple components:
  - Content Reviews
  - Test-taking and stress/anxiety management strategies
  - Practice Tests
  - Mentoring and conversations about mentoring
  - Stipends to cover 50% of cost and help with logistics
- Requirement: take test before graduating; share results
- Early results very promising



THANK YOU

Luis R. Torres-Hostos, PhD  
Luis.TorresHostos@utrgv.edu



**Kwame Dance, PsyD, MBA**  
Founder  
The Mental Health ACCESS  
Program



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**Janis Tondora, PsyD**  
Principal Investigator  
and Co-Director

# Closing Remarks

# Contact Us



**Maria E. Restrepo-Toro, MS**

[maria.restrepo-toro@yale.edu](mailto:maria.restrepo-toro@yale.edu)



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*Thank  
you*

This regional training event is brought to you by Williams James College, ADEPT Center—in collaboration with partners from the New England region's Technology Transfer Center (TTC) Network:  
New England Addiction TTC  
New England Prevention TTC  
New England Mental Health TTC