


APPLYING A SOCIAL JUSTICE AND RACIAL EQUITY LENS TO OUR WORK

Higher Ground Change Strategies for
the BSAS Statewide Virtual Substance
Misuse Prevention Conference

December 2020





ADJUSTING OUR
PERSPECTIVE TO SEE
BEYOND WHAT MOST OF
US WERE TAUGHT TO SEE

*And some of us
taught to ignore...*



MOVING BEYOND “PEOPLE WITH PROBLEMS” TO LANDSCAPE AND CONTEXT

Where do we begin?



WITH GOOD QUESTIONS
AND LOTS OF LISTENING



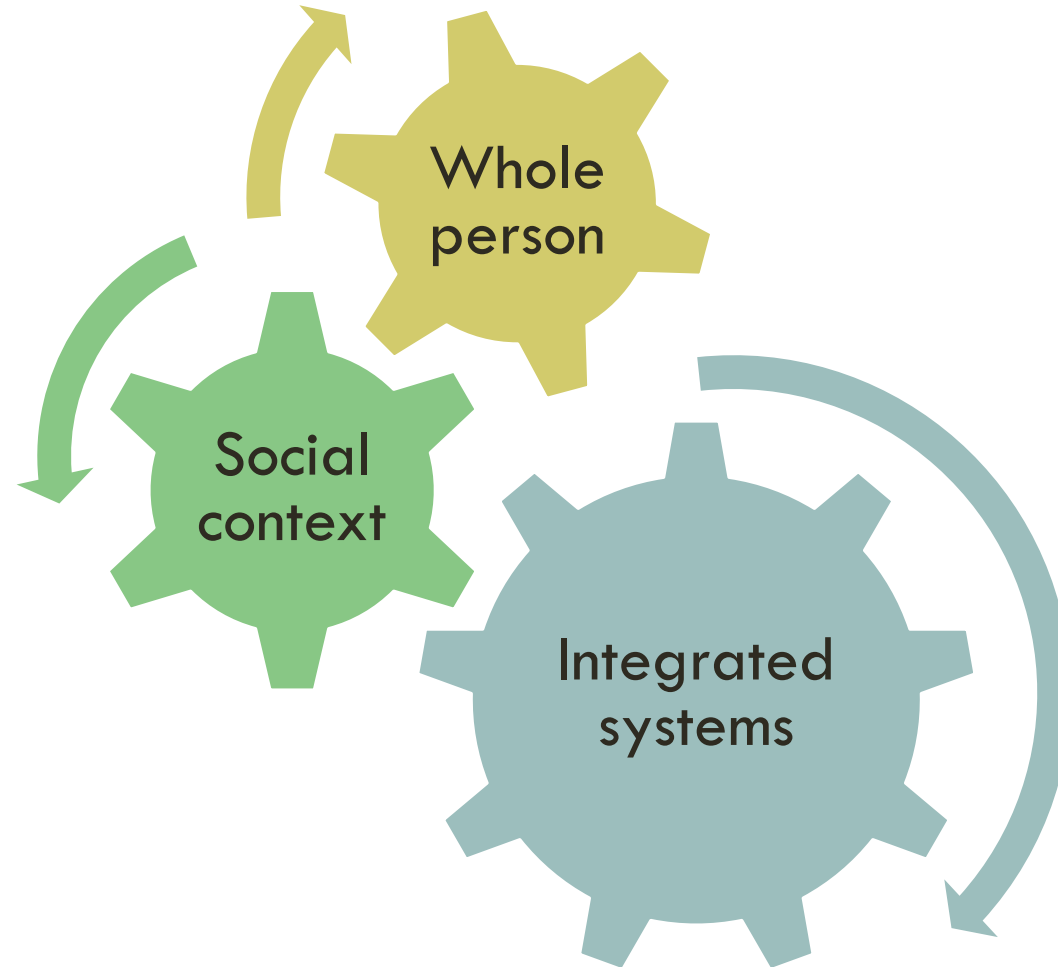
APPLYING A RACIAL EQUITY LENS TO THE STRATEGIC PREVENTION FRAMEWORK

- ❖ **Assessment:** How do we understand the problem?
- ❖ **Capacity:** What does capacity and “readiness” mean?
- ❖ **Planning:** How do you know what “works” and what to do?
- ❖ **Implementation:** Who is best to implement the project? How are power and equity addressed?
- ❖ **Evaluation:** What is success? How is it measured? Who controls the story?

**SEEING IS ONLY THE
BEGINNING**



CONNECTING THE DOTS FOR COMPREHENSIVE PREVENTION





“IF THEY CAN GET YOU ASKING THE
WRONG QUESTIONS, THEY DON'T HAVE
TO WORRY ABOUT THE ANSWERS.”

— THOMAS PYNCHON, *GRAVITY'S RAINBOW*

**What are the right questions to help your work
reflect a racial equity lens *and* action plan?**

Thank you!

Makani@highergroundstrategies.net