Prevention Institute’s System of Prevention Framework
Juliet Sims, RD, MPH
Associate Program Director
Prevention Institute
Juliet@preventioninstitute.org

preventioninstitute.org
Quality Prevention is...

- Aimed at the community environment
- Comprehensive
- Makes healthy options the default
- All communities: Focus on advancing equity
It is unreasonable to expect that people will change their behavior easily when so many forces in the social, cultural, and physical environment conspire against such change.

- National Academy of Medicine, “Promoting Health: Intervention Strategies from Social and Behavioral Research”
The Production of Inequities

COUNTERING THE PRODUCTION OF HEALTH INEQUITIES

A Framework of Emerging Systems to Achieve an Equitable Culture of Health

Extended Summary
August 2016
Built Environment

- “Dawes” Act
- Federal Aid Highway Act
- Divestment in Urban Core
- Suburban Investment
- Loans for Alcohol Businesses
- “Jim Crow” Laws
- Siting of Hazardous Land Uses
- Small Business Practices
- Zoning

Increased Inequity
The production of inequities across eight determinants of health

- Sociocultural Environment
- Built/Physical Environment
- Housing
- Public Safety
- Education
- Employment
- Income & Wealth
- Access to Quality Health Systems and Services
African-Americans are 1.5 to 7 times as likely to have a bad outcome across systems

“The Groundwater Approach: Building a practical understanding of structural racism” – Racial Equity Institute
System (def.)

A set of things working together as parts of a mechanism or an interconnecting network; a complex whole.
A System of Systems
A System of Prevention
Achieving Health, Safety, and Wellbeing for All
A System of Prevention is an organized, purposeful set of inter-related strategies, laws, organizational practices, and norms that catalyze, reward, incentivize, model, and provide a regulatory basis for implementing and scaling up an array of prevention strategies.
Principles of a System of Prevention

A System of Prevention benefits the entire population, and particularly improves conditions for those most harmed by the production of inequities.
Principles of a System of Prevention

A System of Prevention is shaped by community.

Image Source: Community Coalition
A System of Prevention needs leadership and collaboration, particularly from:

- Robust state and local public health departments
- Vibrant community collaboratives
- Multisector collaborations and alliances
- Statewide policy advocates
- Committed funders
Elements of a System of Prevention

- Develop a shared vision
- Engage in multi-level action
- Elevate community voices and leadership
- Facilitate community partnerships and multisector collaboration
- Empower a skilled prevention workforce grounded in social justice
- Make the case for prevention and equity
- Generate stable sources of funding
- Gather and share data to support prevention efforts
Signs of a successful System of Prevention

- Policies & organizational practices shift
- Default produces health, safety, and equity
- Dollars flow toward prevention solutions
- Public discourse and norms shift
- Underlying causes of illness and injury (begin to) improve
- Rates of preventable illness and injury go down
The truth is, there’s a lot we’ve learned about how to create community conditions and norms that can reduce the risk of poor health outcomes. We’ve implemented some of what we’ve learned—but there’s even more that we’ve learned and have yet to implement.

"A System of Prevention: Applying a Systems Approach to Public Health,” published in Health Promotion Practice July 2019