



Author(s) & Affiliation(s): Brinda Sivaramakrishnan¹, Allison Kelliher¹, Anna Kihlstrom², Brynn Luger², John T. Winhusen³, Frankie Kropp³, Marissa Doyle³, Donald Warne¹

¹Center for Indigenous Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA
²University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Grand Forks, ND, USA
³University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine, Cincinnati, OH, USA



- Opioids and methamphetamine use are of increasing concern among American Indian (AI) populations in the Great Plains.
- Existing programs that address individual, familial, legal, social, and community consequences of use, largely determined by outside experts.
- Great Plains Tribes are diverse with unique priorities, cultures, and values.
- Exploratory and pilot studies built on collaborative partnerships between AI communities and research institutions can begin to define treatment and prevention needs.
- Requires building collaborations with reservation-based treatment centers and urban clinics serving AIs in Great Plains.

Figure 1

Community Based Participatory

Research Approach

Tribally Driven

Focus groups

Qualitative Methods

Key Informant Interviews

Video Conference (Zoom)

Data Collection

In person one to one and group

Thematic

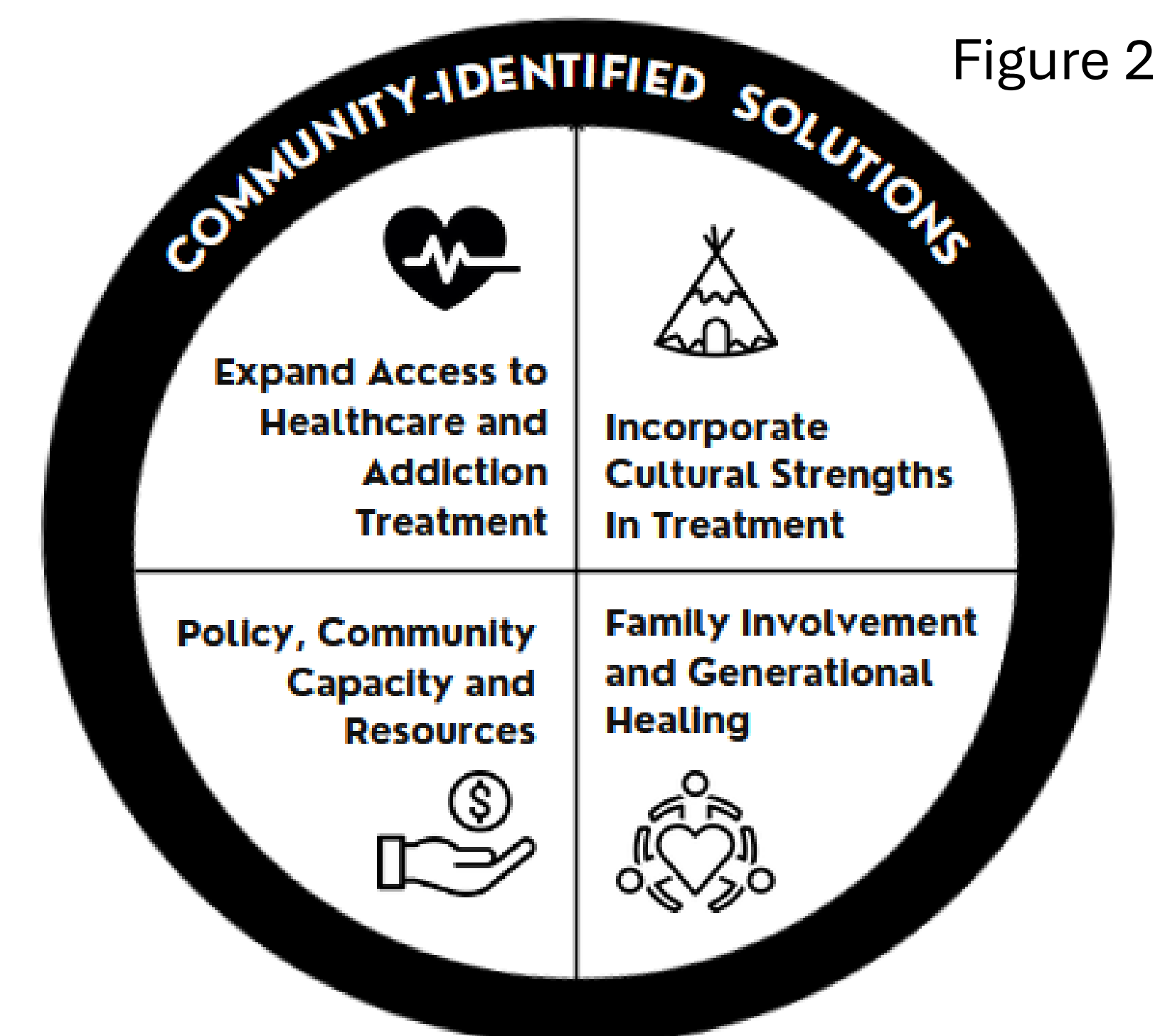
Data Analysis (NVIVO)

Coding

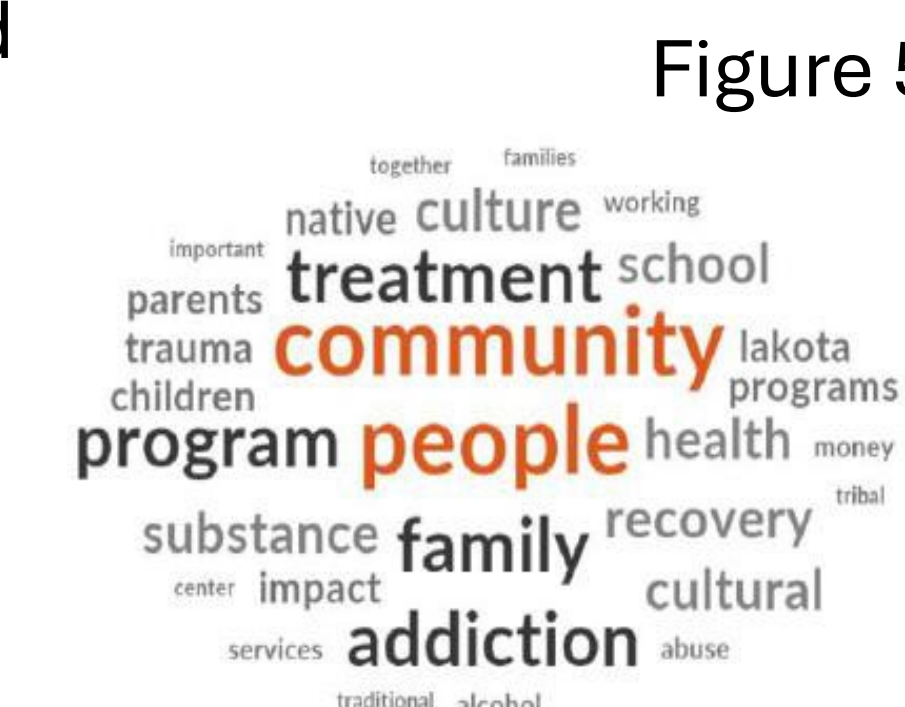
Figure 1 depicts Tribally driven participatory research. This approach aims to Indigenize the CTN-0129 study methodology by identifying priorities *with* tribal communities instead of *for* them. This research centers voices from the front lines of American Indian behavioral health professionals.

All participants and communities, Great Plains Behavioral Health Directors Association. NIH Grant #
#5UG1DA013732-24

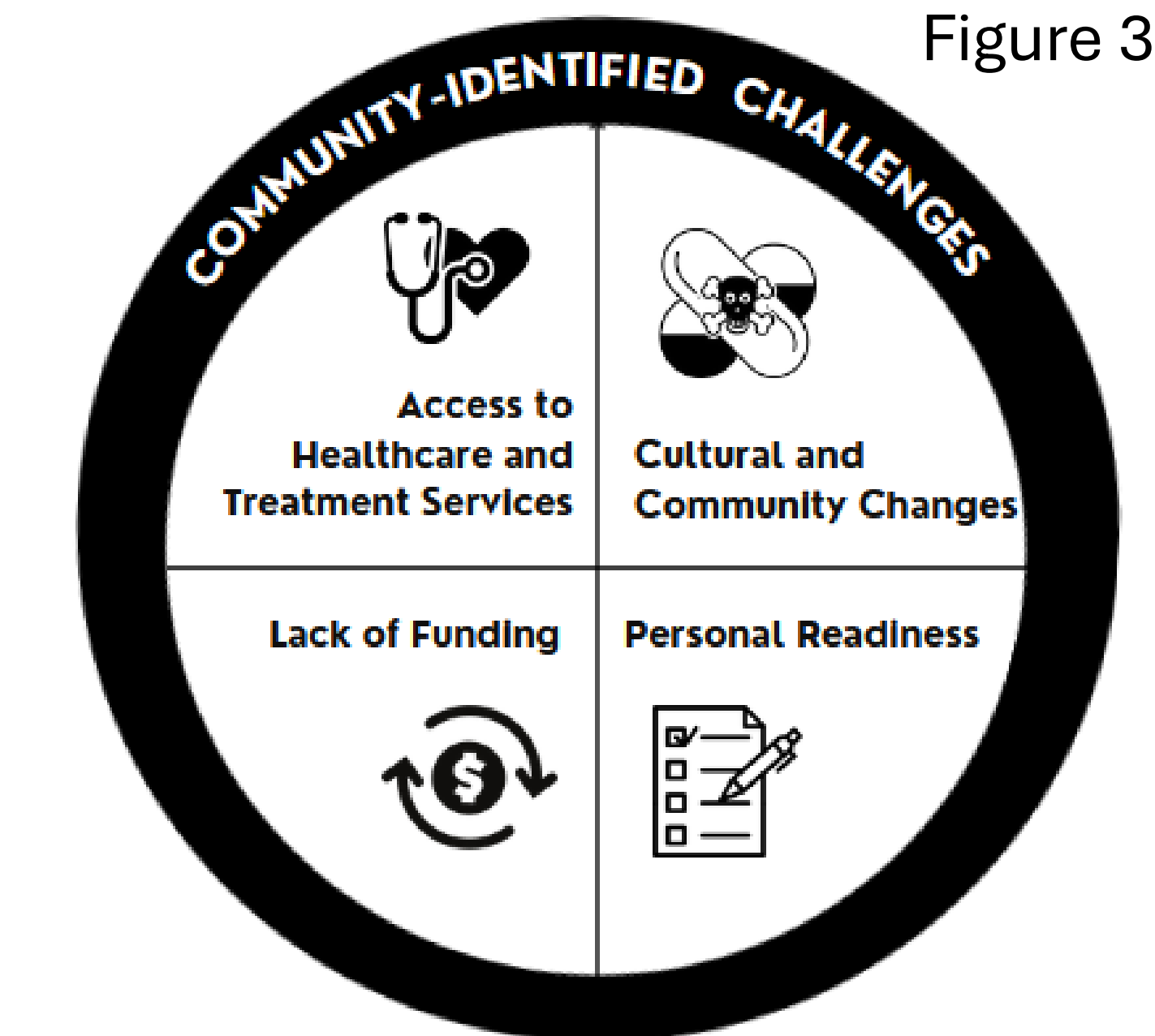
1. Examine how access to supportive housing can provide recovery from substance use.
2. Compare efficacy of treatment and recovery programs that incorporate families to individual care.
3. Explore the significance of the tiošpaye (extended family/ relatives) in people's lives.
4. Examine how federal policies have shaped the lives of tribal communities.
5. Collect data on the efficacy of cultural SUD treatment and recovery programs.
6. Explore the root causes of substance use in families
7. Address the impact of substance use on family, maternal, and child health.
8. Examine the individual's responsibility in treatment and recovery and can the burden of this responsibility on providers be shared.
9. Research effective methods to recruit/ retain staff.
10. Identify ways to show appreciation for providers.



Northern Plains American Indian behavioral health programs collaborated with investigators to develop a list of research priorities for addressing them. With this guidance, researchers can support Tribal communities to address local priorities in a sustainable, and culturally prescribed way to decolonize health research and practice.

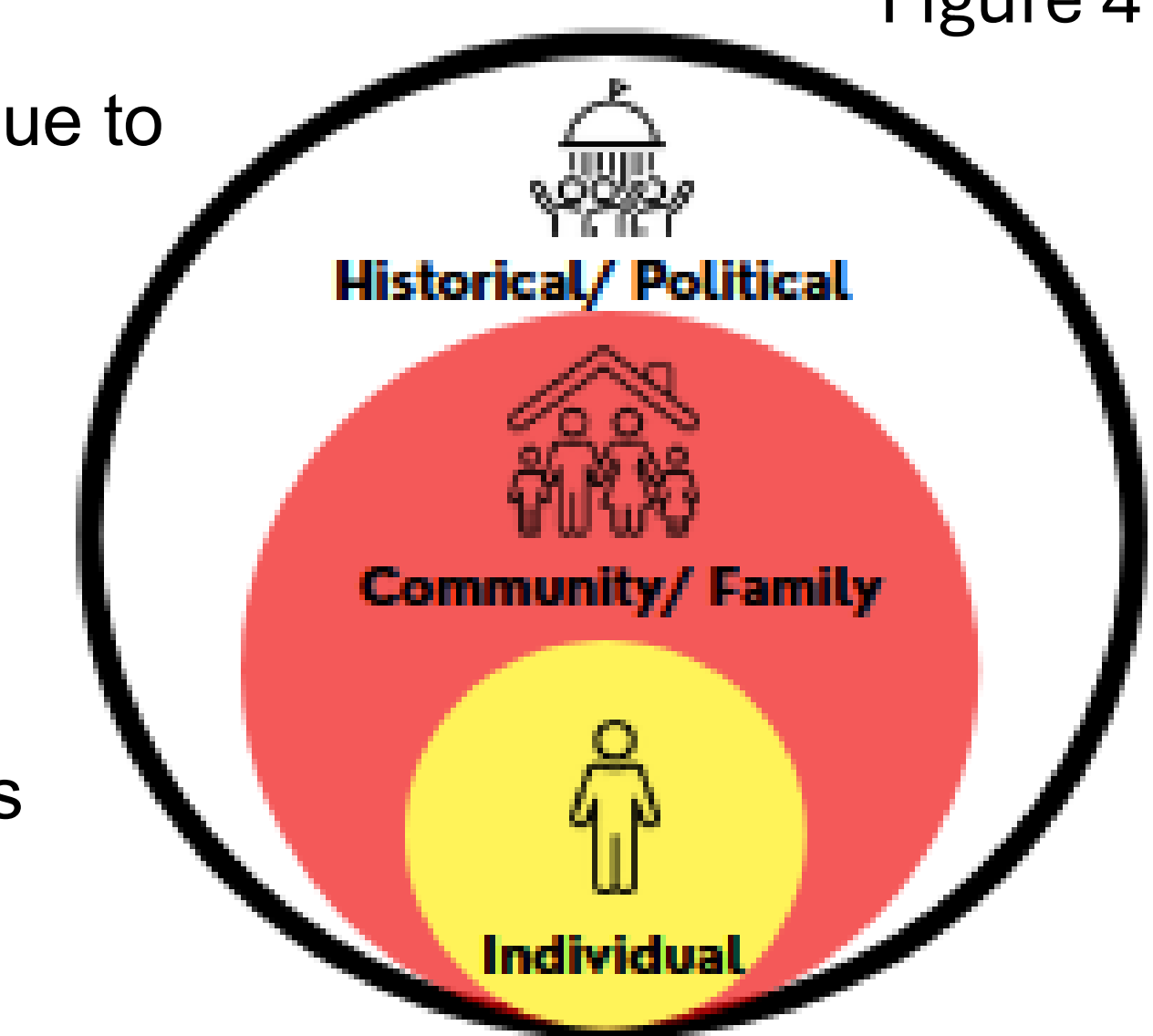


The highest frequency of responses related to community-identified challenges and the potential solutions for addressing addiction. Figures 2 and 3 represent these findings, providing challenges with corresponding solutions placed inside the wheels, highlighting the solution-focused and strengths-based value in these communities.



- **Community/ Family (middle red circle of figure 4)**
 - Disrupted cultural structures for wellness and health
 - Family separation and dysfunction
- **Historical/ Political (outer white ring of figure 4)**
 - Forced removal
 - Treaty violations
 - Intergenerational Trauma due to colonization
- **Individual (inner yellow circle of figure 4)**
 - Boarding Schools
 - Limited Financial Resources
 - Social Acceptance of Drugs
 - High unemployment

The diagram illustrates the Three Circles of Trauma model. It consists of three concentric circles. The innermost circle is yellow and contains a black silhouette of a person, labeled 'Individual'. The middle circle is red and contains a black silhouette of a family (two adults and two children), labeled 'Community/ Family'. The outermost circle is white and contains a black silhouette of a government building (capitol dome), labeled 'Historical/ Political'. The circles are labeled with their respective names in bold black text.



- Increase in homelessness and associated hardships.
- Unintentional harm to children.
- Disruption of household and neighborhoods.
- Increased crime and safety issues.
- Higher rates of infectious and, liver disease, early mortality.
- Greater availability of methamphetamine and fentanyl.