



Living the Story You Want To Tell: Indigenous Evaluation & Storytelling

A session for inspiration,
reflection, and connection

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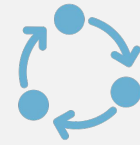
AKA

Allyson Kelley &
Associates,
PLLC.

Topics of Discussion



Conceptualizing
storytelling with
Indigenous
evaluation



Applying
Indigenous values
to individual and
collective
experiences




Sharing stories for
transformation,
growth, and equity

Learning Objectives

Describe what Indigenous evaluation and storytelling looks like



Describe the importance of Indigenous evaluation values and approaches to elevate equity



Discuss the participatory process of collecting information for stories



Explain the process of sharing stories



Discuss the implications of Indigenous storytelling in evaluation

Some of Our Clients

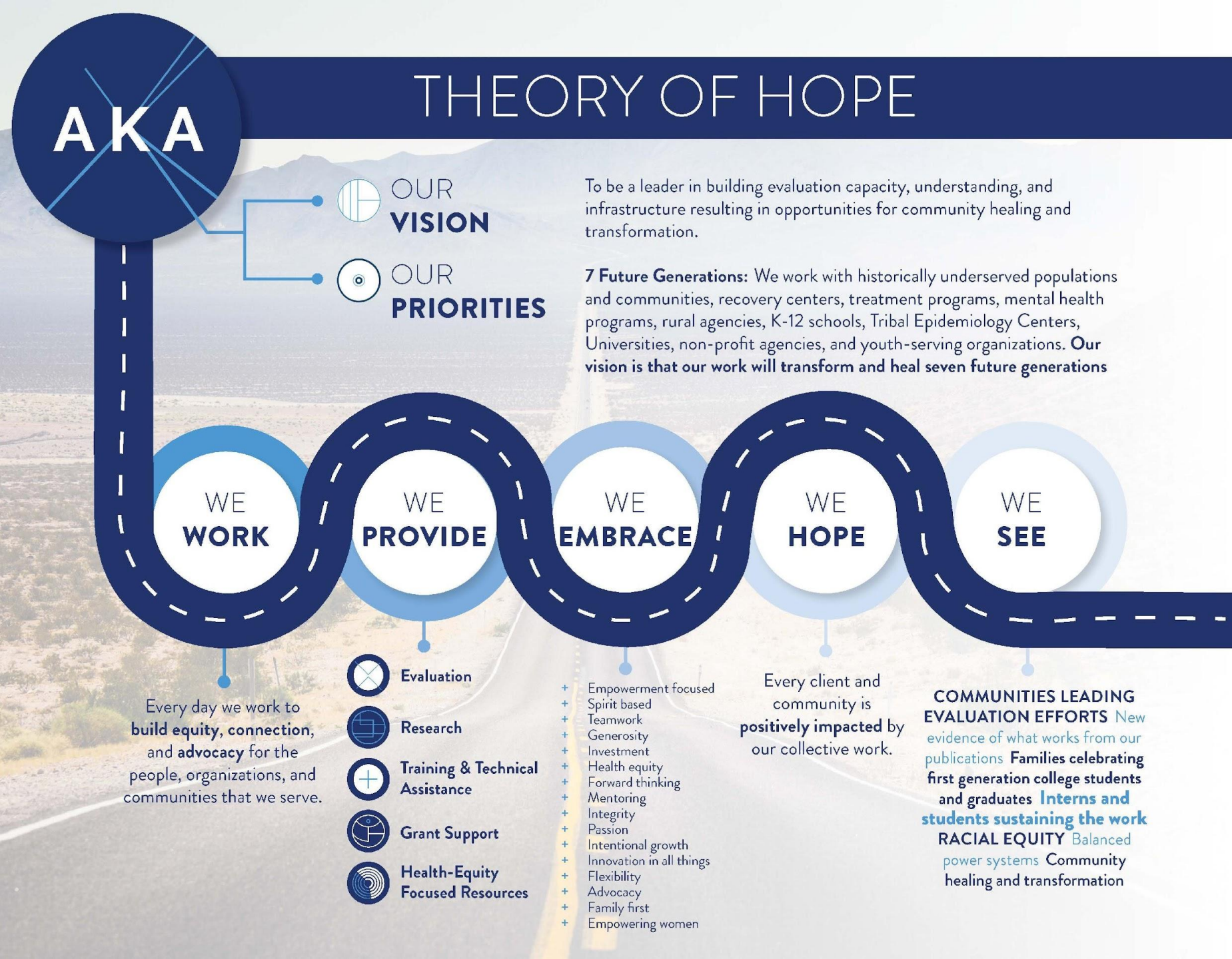


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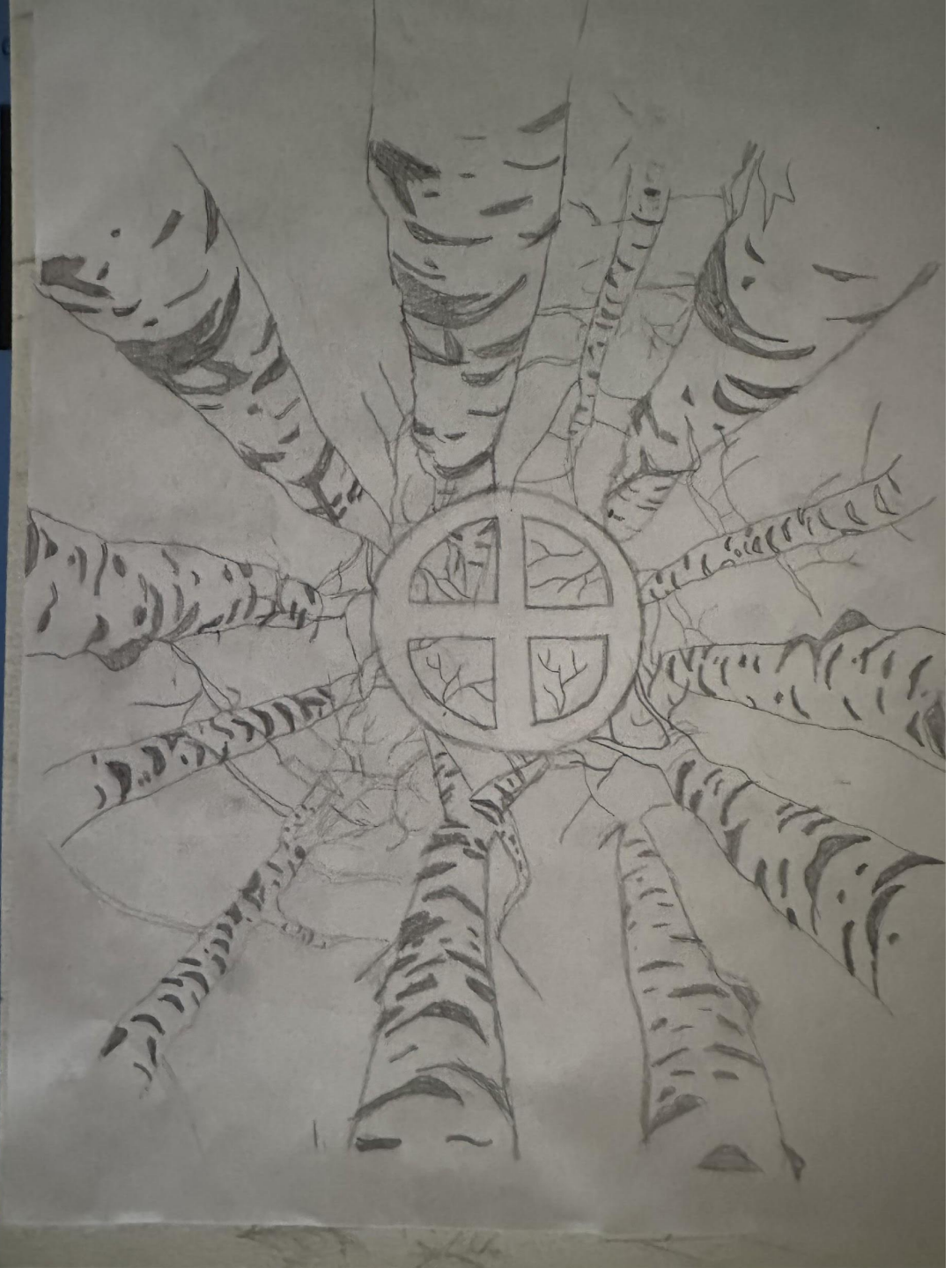
The common thread linking our clients and team is **transformation** and **healing**.

- Education
- Treatment
- Recovery
- Prevention
- Balance
- Wellness

Our Values & Theory of Hope – A visual logic model



Napi Story by
Christie
Farmer,
Blackfeet



The background features two stylized trees. On the left, a light teal tree trunk extends from the bottom to the top, with a dark blue, rounded canopy. On the right, a dark blue tree trunk extends from the bottom to the top, with a dark blue, rounded canopy. The word "Kahoot" is centered in the white space between the trees.

Kahoot



**How do you define
Indigenous
Storytelling?**

Did you know...

27,000 Years of Stories



- Sioux (1822-1907) battle participant, Records details- trooper's uniforms, location of wounds of horses, distribution of Indian and white casualties

Brain on Stories

Hear story, Brain Activity Increase

We think in stories

Brains synchronize with person telling story and listener

Frontal cortex gets bored with overused words- get creative

Words Matter

Indigenous Evaluation

- A method of evaluation based on Indigenous ways of knowing, being, feeling, and doing
- A subjective experience, it cannot be standardized
- Learning from thoughtful reflection and assessment – values are central to the mission.

Storytelling

- “ In oral traditions such as ours, telling stories is how we pass on the history and the teachings of our ancestors.” - Hanna & Hentry, 1995, p. 201
- Mythical, Personal, or Sacred

People...



Place





Beginning the Journey

01

Prior to Colonization

American Indian families saw themselves as functioning units.

02

Grandfamilies

Extended family units

03

Disruptions of family today

8% of children lives in households headed by their grandparents

04

American Indian Maternal Mortality

American Indian women are 2-3 x more likely to die of pregnancy or birth complications than non-Hispanic White Women



Grief and Loss

Each Tribe has their own cultural response and ritual when loss occurs.

Indigenous Methodologies



Two-Eyed Seeing

Knowledge is co-created and responsive to cultural context

Dialogical Approach

Questions guided by conversation and dialogue , “We are still learning” - D Ertz



Seven Grandfathers' Teachings

Humility, courage, honesty, wisdom, respect, truth, and love

METHODS

**Indigenous
Design**

Ethics/Consent

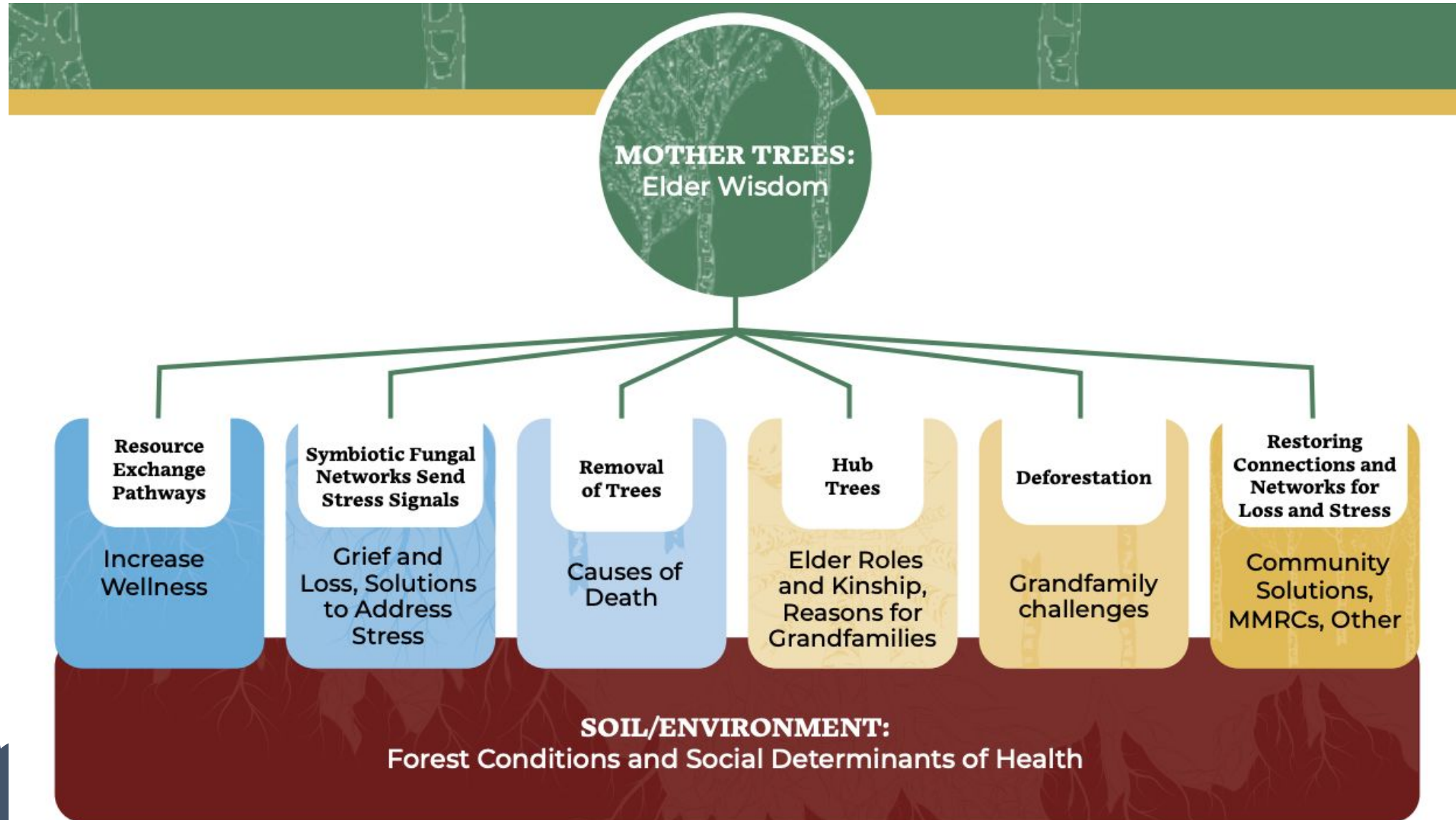
**Data
Analysis**

**Participants
/Elders**

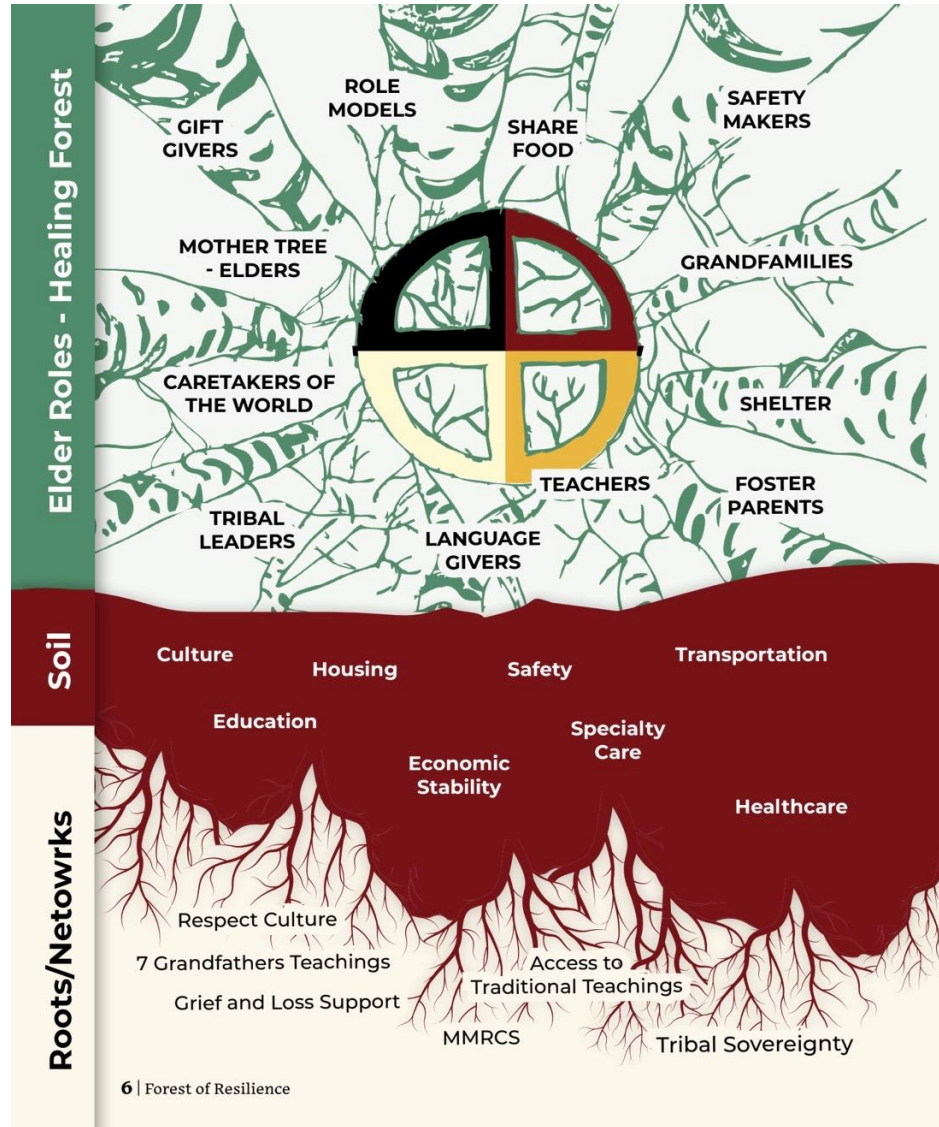
**Data
Collection**



RESULTS



Forest of Resilience Story



SCAN HERE
TO READ THE FULL FOREST
OF RESILIENCE REPORT



Background

If you were asked to share one story with the world, what would it be?

Would you offer encouragement, advice from your grandmother, or a program evaluation summary about your work?

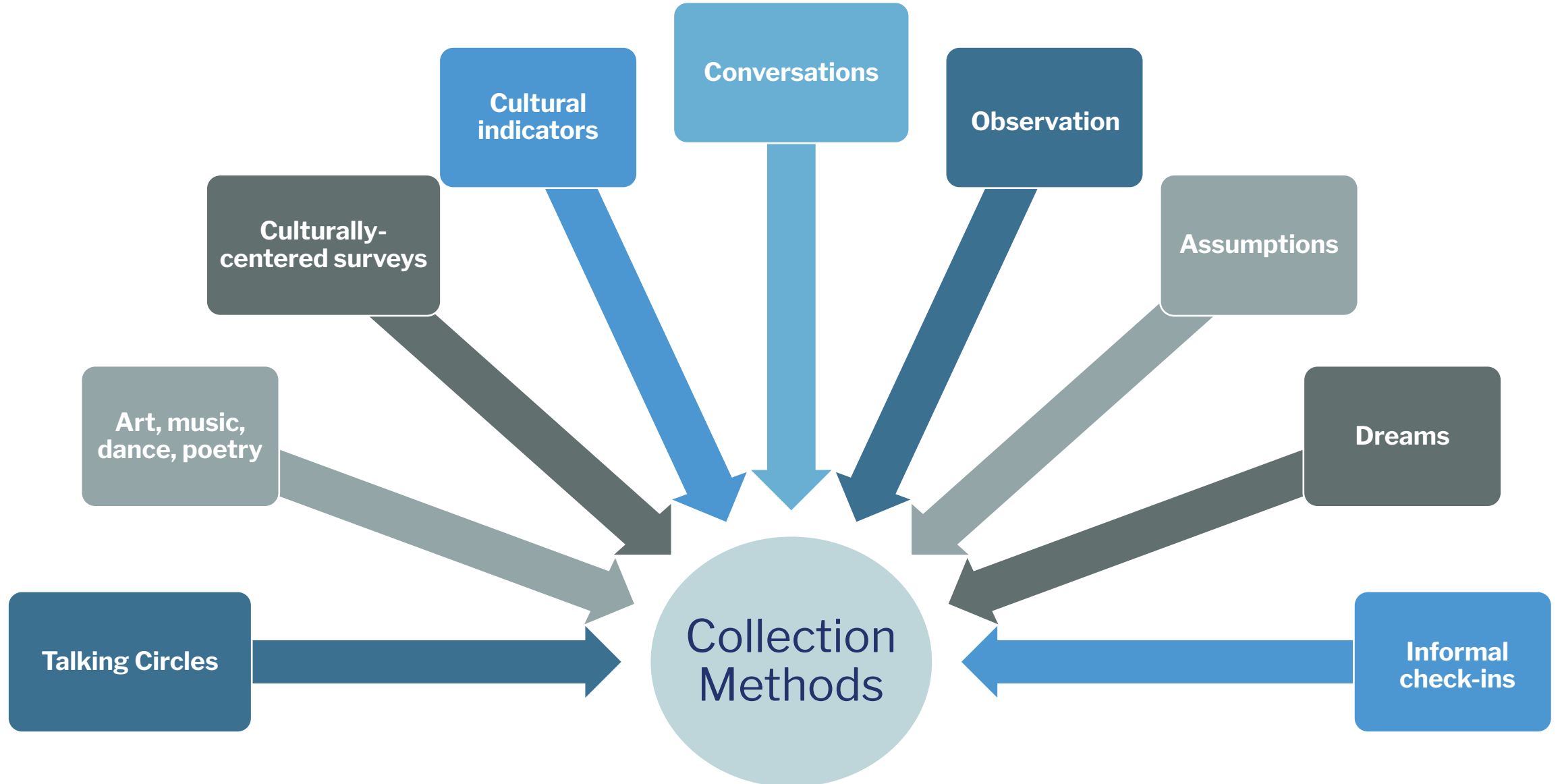
Indigenous evaluation is storytelling. It is subjective, creative, reflective, and moving in space and time.

- UIHI, Building the Sacred (Polansky & Eco-Hawk, 2021)
- Reframing Evaluation: Defining an Indigenous Evaluation Framework (LaFrance & Nichols, 2010)
- Medicine Wheel Teachings, Balance, Recovery (Kelley et.al., 2015)
- Evaluation in Rural Communities (Kelley, 2018)

Core Indigenous Evaluation Values

- **Community is created wherever Indigenous people are-** Walking with relatives to share stories, collect stories, see stories, respond to stories.
- **Resilient and strengths based-** Encouragement, confidence, happiness, life skills.
- **Decolonizes data-** Data collected with the intent to heal.
- **Centering of the community-** Adaptation, flexibility, community inclusion in evaluation.

Indigenous Data Collection Methods



Guiding Questions

What are some methods used in Indigenous Evaluation?

How do we create stories from evaluations?

Reflections for Stories

How does your program engage in evaluation?



Does your work reflect an Indigenous theory?



How do you decolonize spaces and programs?

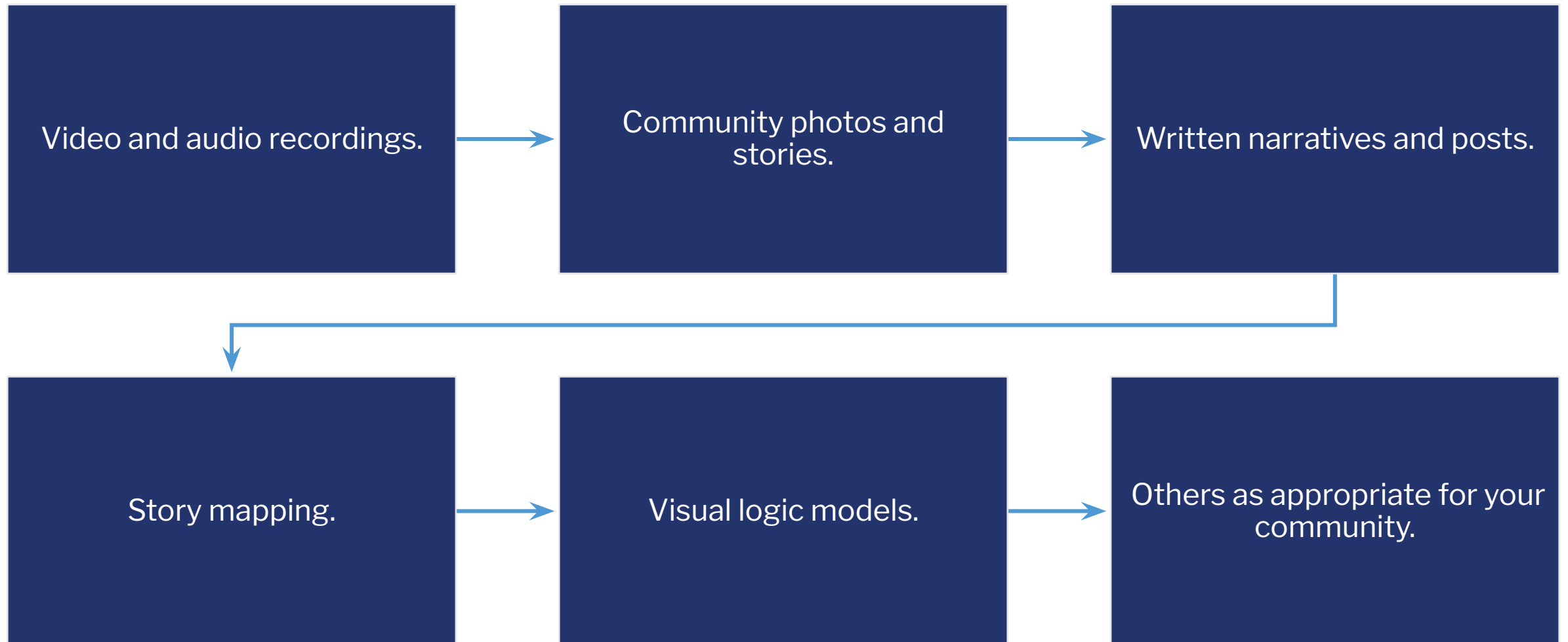


How does evaluation help you tell your story?



What stories can you tell us today?

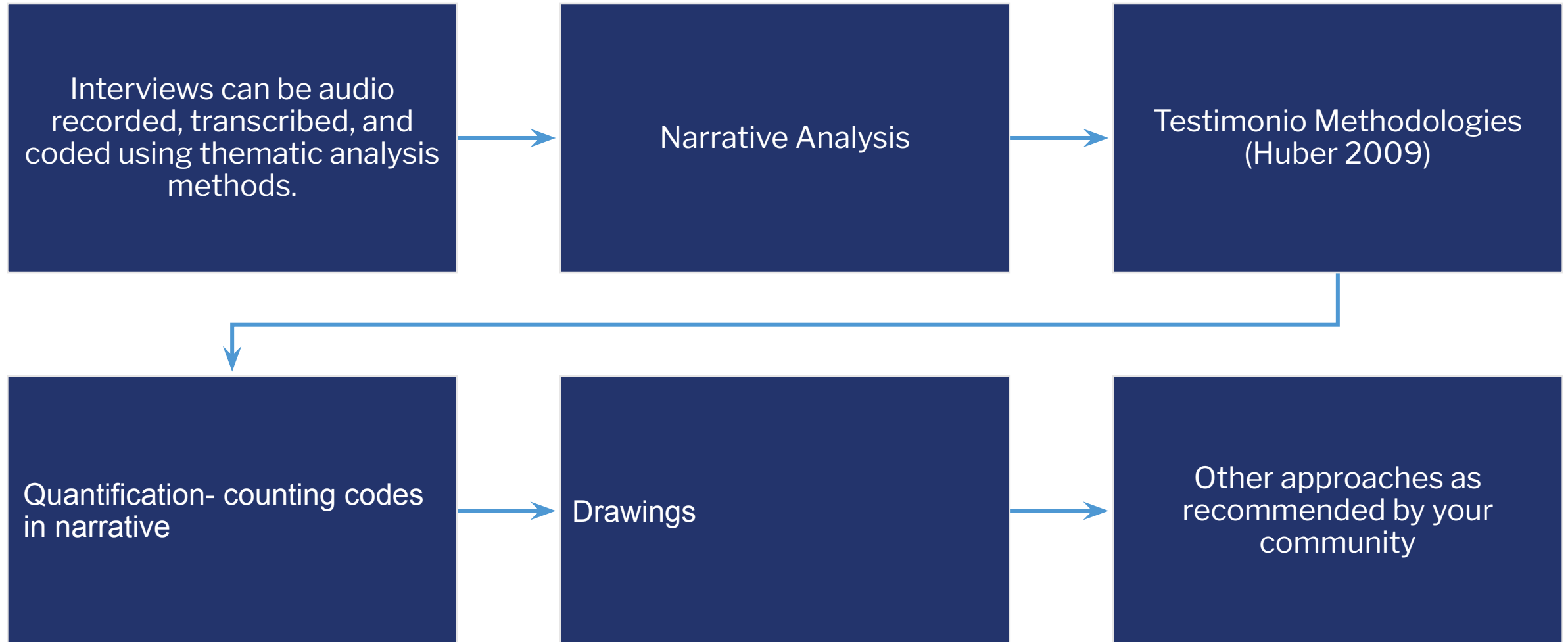
How do we share stories?



Stories from Drawings



Do we need to analyze stories? It depends



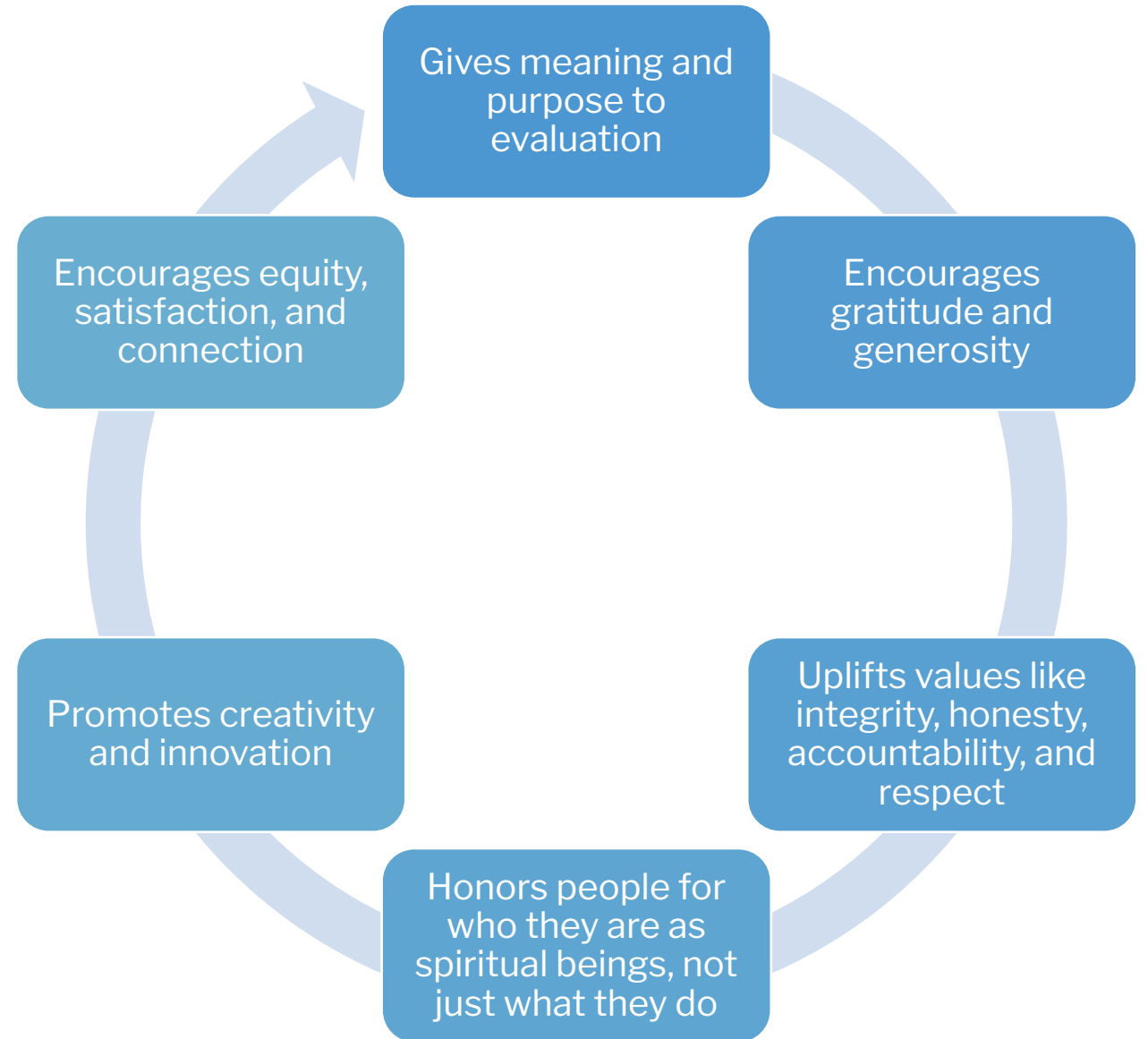
Experiences: The story that observers see and feel

- **Experiences** create memories.
- **Memories** connect us to our **purpose**.
- **Stories** are a collection of **experiences, memories, and purpose that give us understanding of what is happening and what is needed for the future.**

Connection.

It's in the connection with people. So I think the connection is the biggest thing that we need to work on and work on showing up in spirit form so we can connect with one another. Spirits before we connect with the evaluation materials the task at hand.

Implications for Indigenous Evaluation & Storytelling



A Story for Your Journey Ahead



Final Message on Stories

Stories created through Indigenous Evaluation have the potential to improve the health and well-being of current and future generations.

Stories are what we tell ourselves. What we remember about our lived experiences. What we take with us for our journeys.

Cultural values, lived experiences, and connections cultivate meaning and future stories that teach us how to live.

We are storytellers. We are thinkers. We are survivors. We want our lives to have meaning and honor. We want to show others our sacredness. We can do this through Indigenous Storytelling. There are many paths and there is no wrong way to tell your story.

THANK YOU!

**Scan to view more info about
Indigenous Evaluations**

<https://rb.gy/3xr7qq>



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Sioux Photo- Red Horse (Minneconjou Lakota Sioux, 1822-1907), Untitled from the Red Horse Pictographic Account of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, 1881. Graphite, colored pencil, and ink. NAA MS 2367A_08570700. National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution <https://news.stanford.edu/features/2016/red-horse/>

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Critical Considerations for Storytelling

Involve protocols and practices for mutuality, power sharing, and reciprocity



Decolonize evaluation approaches



Engagement and collaboration



Co-construct findings



Reciprocal relationships

Other Examples Available upon Request



Doya Natsu Healing Center

Spotted Bull Recovery Resource Center

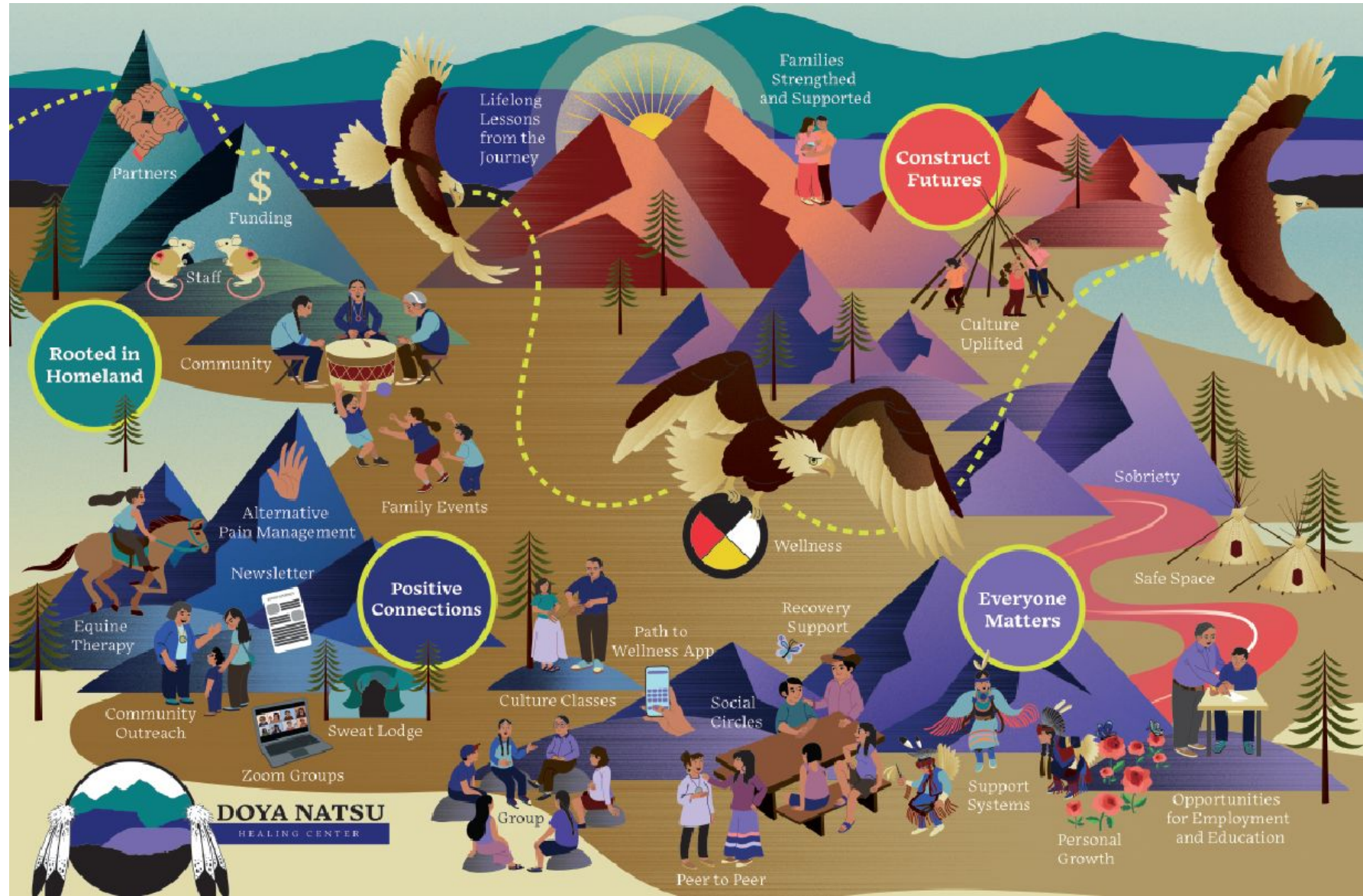


Pueblo of Pojoaque Behavioral Health

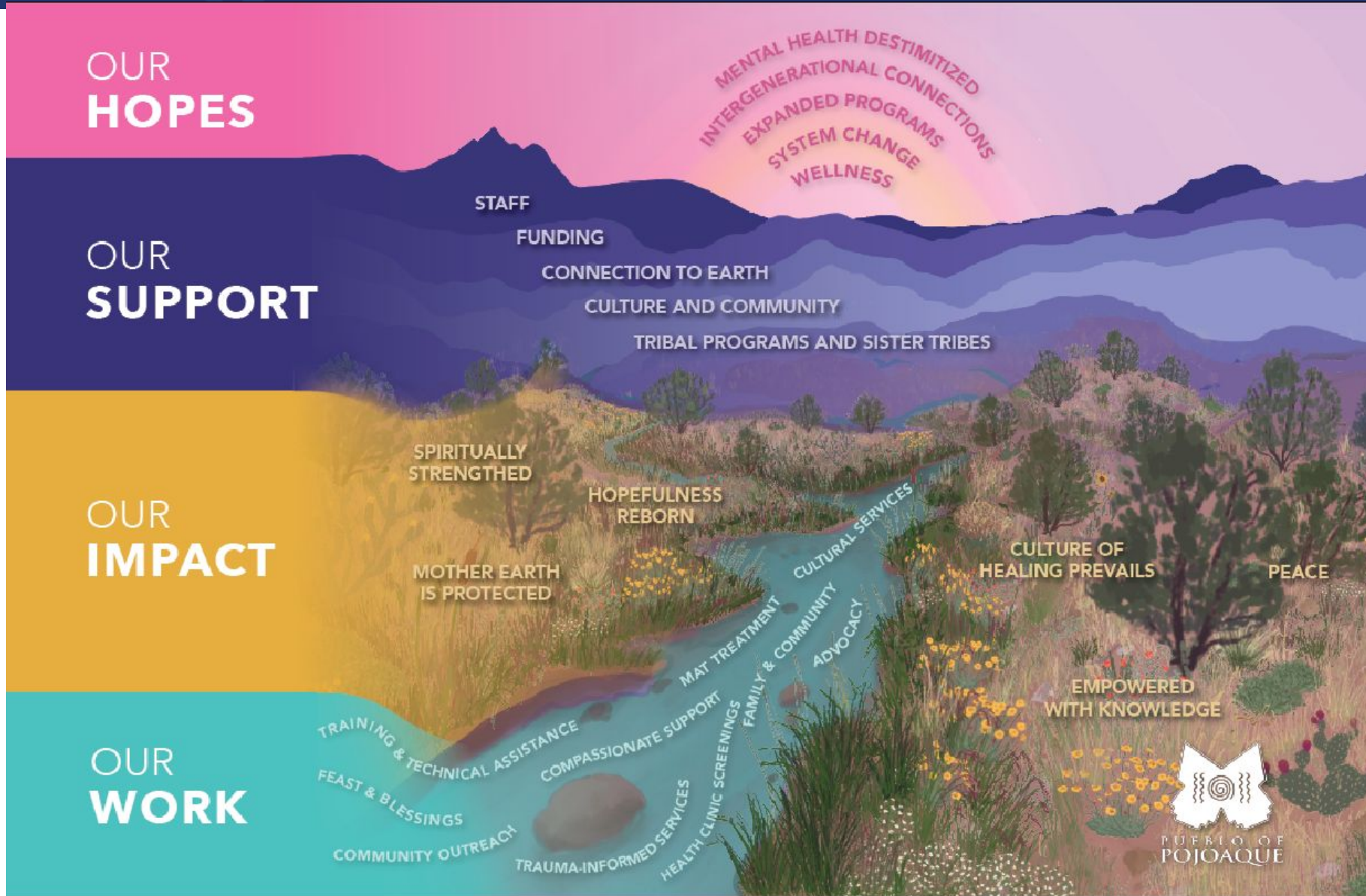
California Rural Indian Health Board



Doya Natsu Healing Center Visual Story



Pueblo of Pojoaque Behavioral Health





GOALS

- Transformation
- Renewal
- Public Health Improves
- Learning
- Hope
- Sparks Something

EVALUATION DATA COLLECT TOOLS



TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY TEAM EVALUATION TEAM CURRICULUM



NARCHS
NPAIHB

VALUES

- Connection
- Confidence
- Hope
- Empower
- Sustain
- Transform
- Equity

RESOURCES

PRAYERS OF ANCESTORS

