



**TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH  
SERVICES AND SYSTEMS  
RESEARCH:  
BRAINSTORMING INNOVATIVE TOOLS  
FOR PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT**

**Tuesday, May 20, 2014  
2:30 PM – 3:15 PM (CST)  
Ballroom A and B**

# ABSTRACT

With a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Public Health Services and Systems Research (PHSSR) grant, the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI), Inter-tribal Council of Michigan, and a group of tribal advisors are conducting a study that aims to describe the infrastructure, organizational relationships, performance, and outcomes of the system in alignment with the Ten Essential Services. The goal of this PHSSR project is to begin building the evidence base, as well as to help drive improvements in policy and practice for more effective, efficient, and accountable public health systems in Indian Country. This session will start with an overview of the study that will lay the foundation for dialogue among participants about the types of information and tools that could be useful to tribal public health organizations and partner agencies as they envision and seek innovative solutions for strengthening public health systems and pursuing national accreditation.



# OBJECTIVES OF THIS ROUNDTABLE

## SESSION:

1. Understand **what public health services and systems research is, and how it can provide evidence to practitioners and policy-makers** seeking to make sound decisions about the most efficient and impactful strategies to improve population health.
2. Identify **three new communication tools or products that tribal public health agencies could utilize** for strengthening public health systems.
3. Describe the types of **information and tools that public health system partners would find useful for partnering with tribes** in collaborative efforts to improve population health.





# OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY

JULIA, P.I./DIRECTOR

**Background, Purpose & Goals**

# PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES & SYSTEMS RESEARCH (PHSSR)



- Examines the organization, financing, delivery and quality of public health services within communities and the resulting impact on population health
- Emphasizes translation and dissemination!  
Providing policy-makers and practitioners with information they need to make decisions.



# TRIBAL PUBLIC HEALTH CASE STUDY

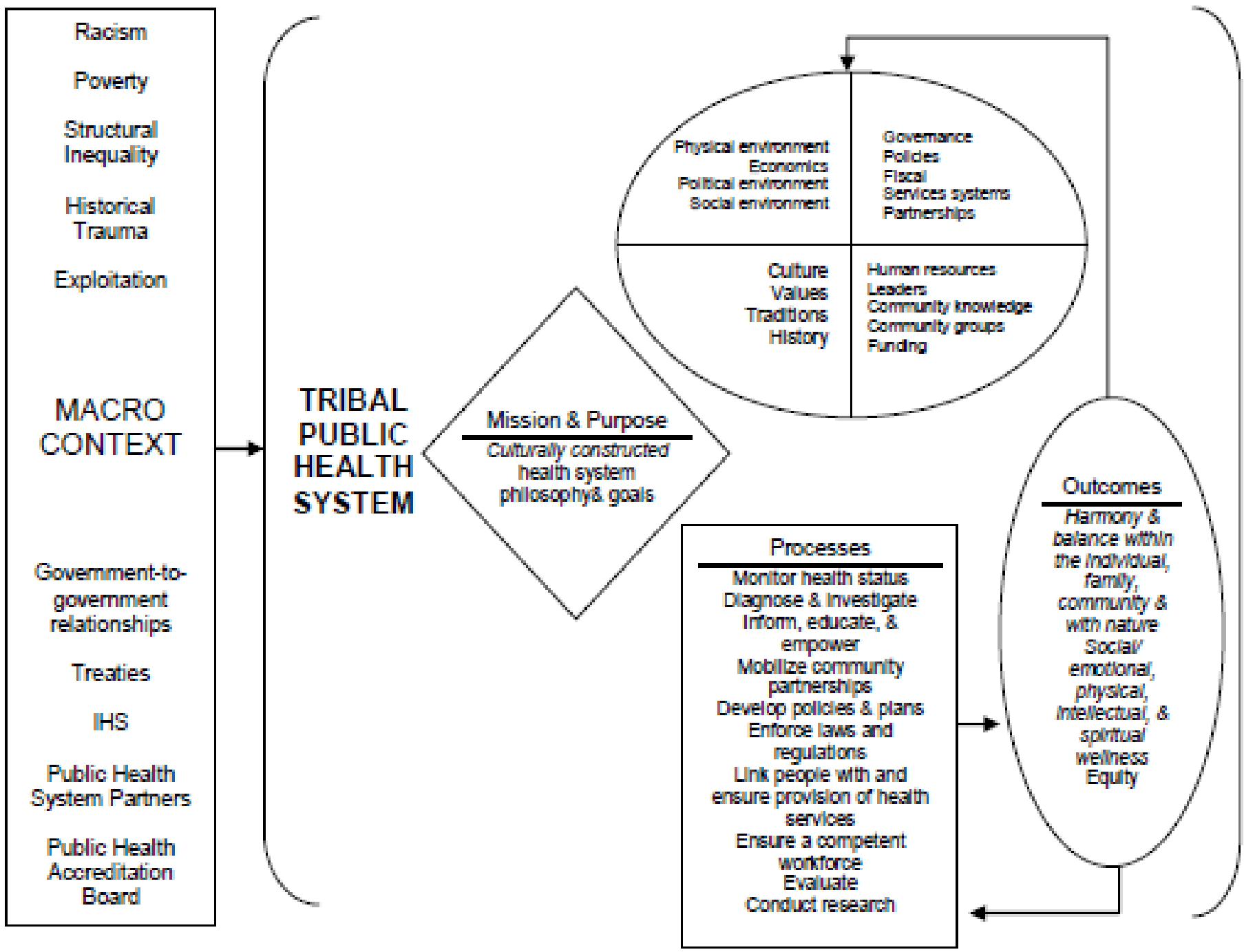
- Our study will help build an evidence base that describes how tribes organize and partner to protect and promote health of tribal members.



# RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. How are tribal PH systems conceptualized and organized by tribes, and why?
2. Who are the key actors and decision-makers within the tribal PH system, and why?
3. How are system partners monitoring system performance and tracking health outcomes?
4. How does system infrastructure influence use of PH approaches, especially those used to address health disparities?
5. What influence do the organizational relationships have on the tribal PH system's ability to impact health disparities?







# STUDY DESIGN AND METHODS

- Rigorous Case Study Design (1 study site)
  - Beginning with an open mind and a blank slate!
  - Exploratory; seek an understanding, not an answer
- Methods:
  - In-depth interviews with ecomapping
  - Focus groups
  - Social network analysis
  - Secondary data analysis & document review




# TRIBAL PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH

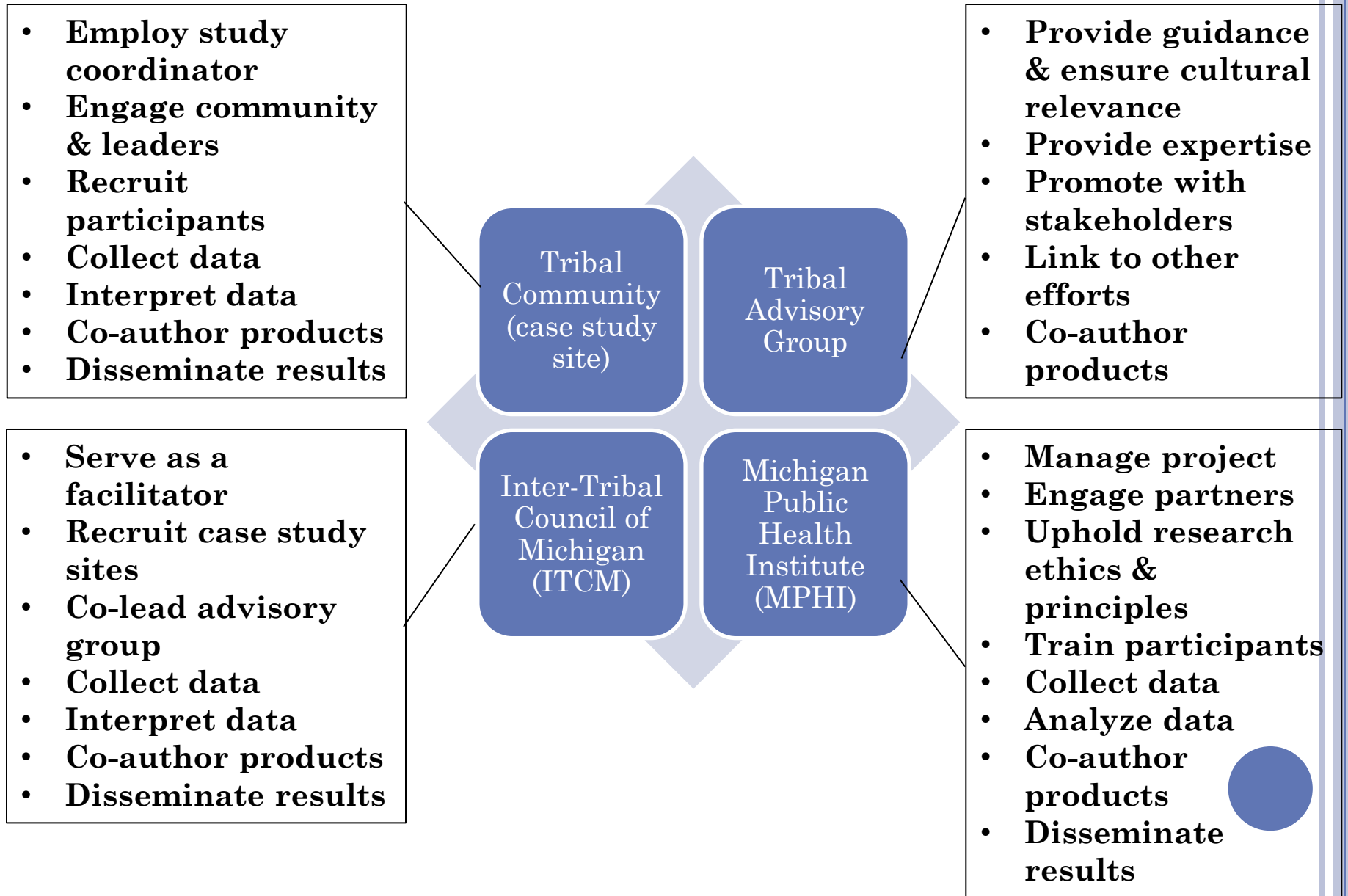
## 4 Core Principles

1. **Engaging communities** in generating knowledge and identifying solutions;
2. Challenging positivistic assumptions and **embracing community values and belief systems**;
3. Finding **community-driven solutions** to real-life problems;
4. **Embracing diversity** and drawing on it to generate knowledge and solutions.

## 4 Mechanisms

1. **Tribal oversight** and authority over process and products
  2. **Use of a facilitator**
  3. Training and employing community members and **building capacity** within tribal communities;
  4. **Culturally-specific intervention and assessment**; adapting and developing methods and measures that fit the tribe's specific cultural context.
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# PROJECT ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES



# BY THE END OF THE STUDY, WE HOPE TO HAVE IDENTIFIED:

- Lessons that can be used to strengthen partnerships between tribal and non-tribal agencies
- Promising and best practices for organizing & strengthening tribal public health systems
- Lessons from tribal communities that can strengthen public health systems in non-tribal communities
- Avenues for further research to support tribes to build the evidence
- Recommendations to inform the evolution of national accreditation



## ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

1. Communication tools or products that tribal PH agencies could use to strengthening their systems.
2. Information and tools that (non-tribal) PH partners would find useful for partnering with tribes in collaborative efforts to improve population health.



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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