Tribal Nations Research Group Innovative Best Practices
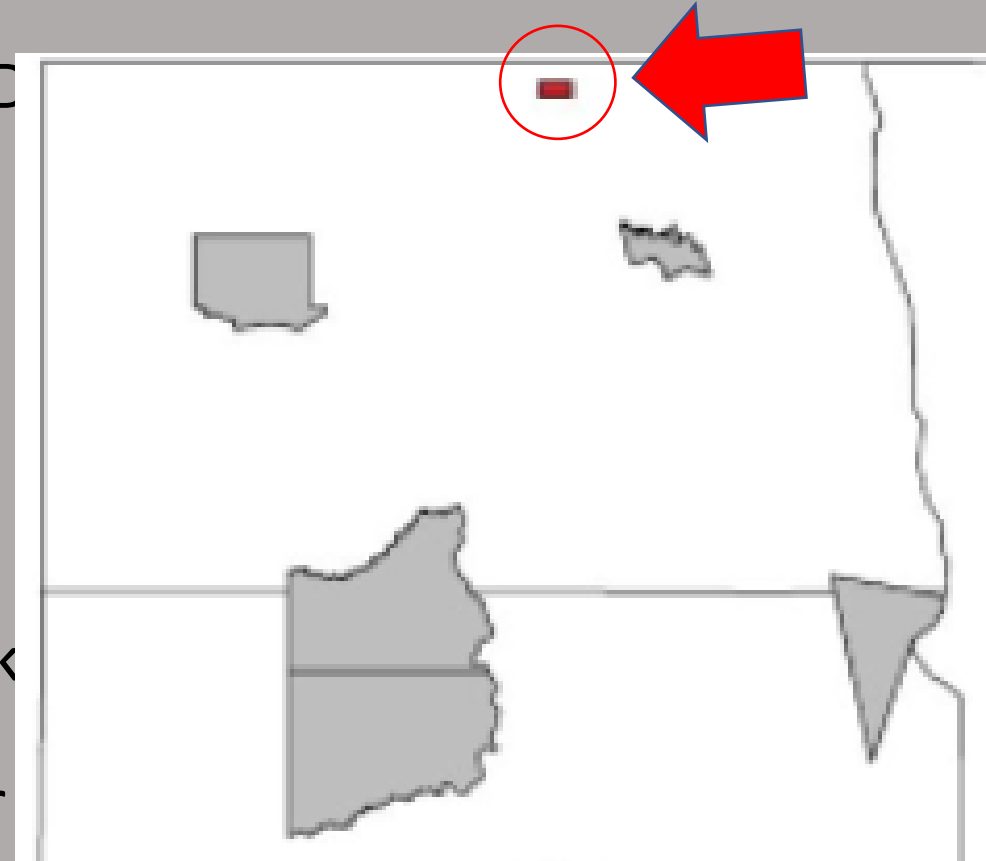
Alyce Spotted Bear & Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children

June 24, 2022

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About Tribal Nations Research Group

- Native non-profit located in Belcourt ND on the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Lands.

- Not owned or managed by the Tribal Government.

- Data Center

- One of a kind

- Use data to identify areas for improvement, establish plans, and track change.

- Serve as the Research Review Board for the Tribe.

What do we do

- Goal
  - Develop a statutory process to review, govern, maintain, and house all research, collection, database, or publication undertaken within the Turtle Mountain Community or about the community. To maintain data relevant to TMBCI and all subsidiaries.

- Relationship with TMBCI
  - Establish a formalized process to protect the people, culture, and natural resources of TMBCI.
  - Establish and manage the TMBCI Research Department.
    - Tribal RRB
    - Research Catalog
  - Establish a data center/repository that will be the official reporting entity for the TMBCI and subsidiaries.
  - Inform and educate the TMBCI community about the research process, data use, data ownership, and distribute updates about research.
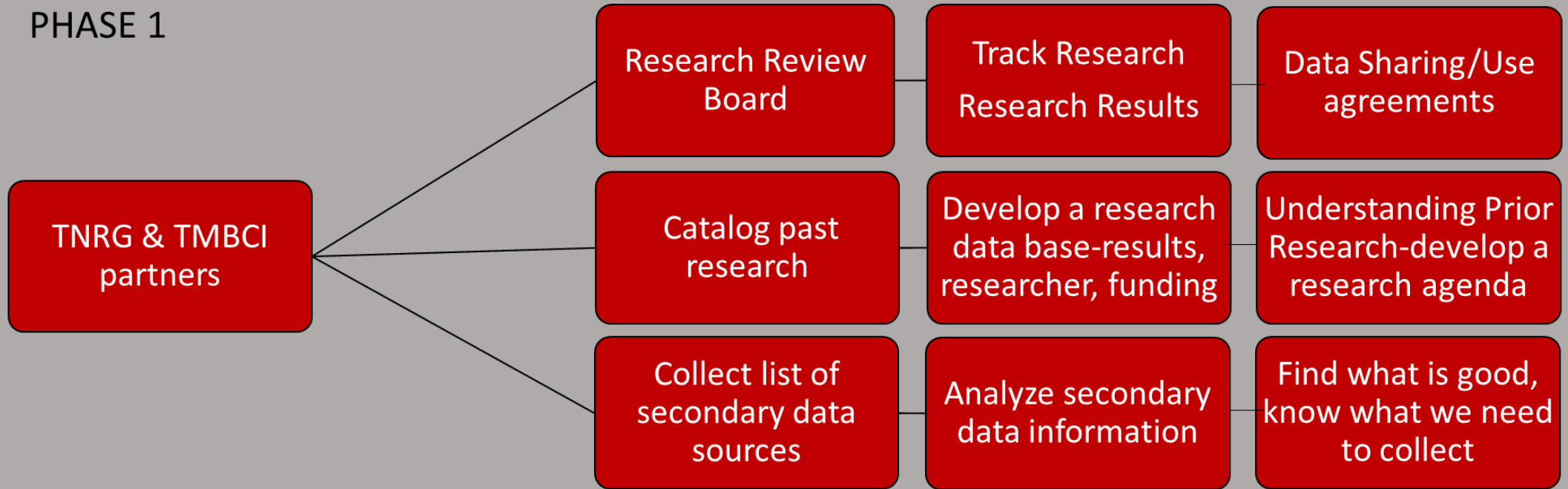
Why?

Why?

Why?

Citizens of Turtle Mountain

How

PHASE 1

TNRG & TMBCI partners

- Research Review Board
- Track Research Research Results
- Data Sharing/Use agreements
- Catalog past research
- Develop a research data base-results, researcher, funding
- Understanding Prior Research-develop a research agenda
- Collect list of secondary data sources
- Analyze secondary data information
- Find what is good, know what we need to collect

How

Phase 2

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Evaluate:
• Technology
• Policy
• Communication
• Resources
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- Programs/ Services of TMBCI
- Tribal Enterprise
- Government Agencies
- Private Independent Business

→ Data Warehouse → Mine Data → Find Patterns →

- Tribal Members- Community
- Tribal Leadership
- Program Managers
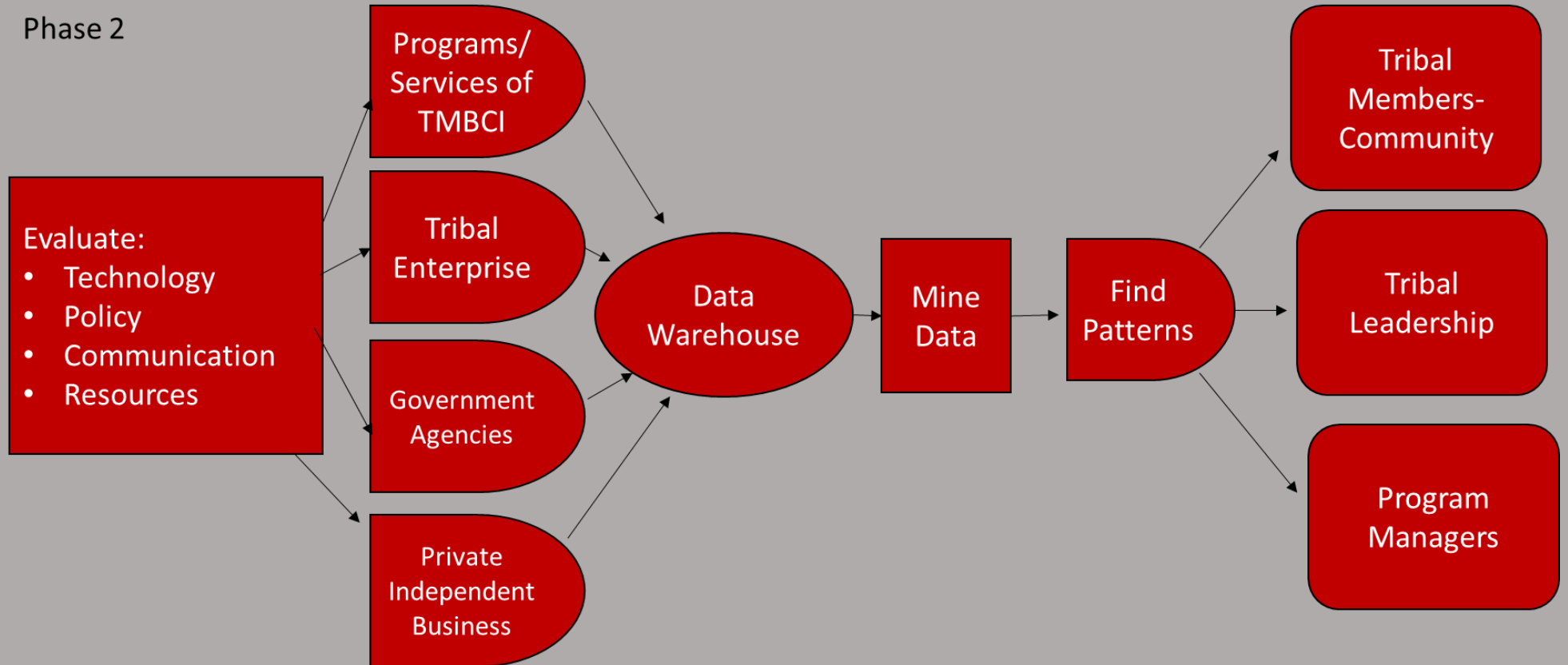
Examples of Partnerships

- TMBCI Community
  - Better understanding of our data
    - Child Welfare System
    - School Data
    - Disengaged Youth

- State of North Dakota and TNRG/ND Tribes
  - Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring Study (PRAMS)
    - 100% Native American Women
    - Important Questions about access to health care
    - Pre and Post Care
    - Rich Data sets that can help address Infant Mortality Rates

- Sanford Research (CRCAIH), TNRG and TMBCI
  - First Community Health Assessment
    - Discovered several disparities in the community particularly related to our youth, food, and access to healthcare

Results

- Data
  - Research database
  - Demographic Information
  - Data sovereignty
  - Data protection

- Better understanding of our community and the needs of our community.

- Educated and informed community

- Increase in communication across the community, stakeholders, and constituents.

- Stronger decision making.

- Improved planning.

- Targeted resources

- Overall improvement in our people, resources, and finances.

- Respect for research and data

Recommendations

- Provide funding that allows relationship building with the Tribal Communities
  - Understanding the data, most often public data sets are inaccurate and not representative of the communities.
- Invest in partnerships with the Tribal Communities
  - Not all communities have access to the same resources
- Best practice models are not always a fit for every community
  - Be open to modifications, encourage creativity
- Invest directly into the Tribal Communities
  - Middle man can take resources from the community
- If you collect the data, do something with the data
  - Inform policy,
  - Inform Leaders,
  - Inform Directors
  - Inform the community

Thank You

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