

Evaluation and Research in Indian Country

Douglas A Bigelow, PhD
Professor Emeritus

R. Dale Walker, MD
Professor and Director

One Sky Center
Oregon Health & Science University

Tribal Best Practices Initiative: Phases

1. Tribal response to EBP mandate
2. State TBP initiative
3. Criteria of TBP cultural validity
4. Adoption of Logic Model
5. Evaluation of TBP
6. Institutionalization of TBP

Tri-cultural Sources of Best Practice



Environmental Scan

- Government –Government relationship
- Languages, customs (different and important)
- Small population
- Rural/remote
- Poor communities
- Cultural sensitivity/competence

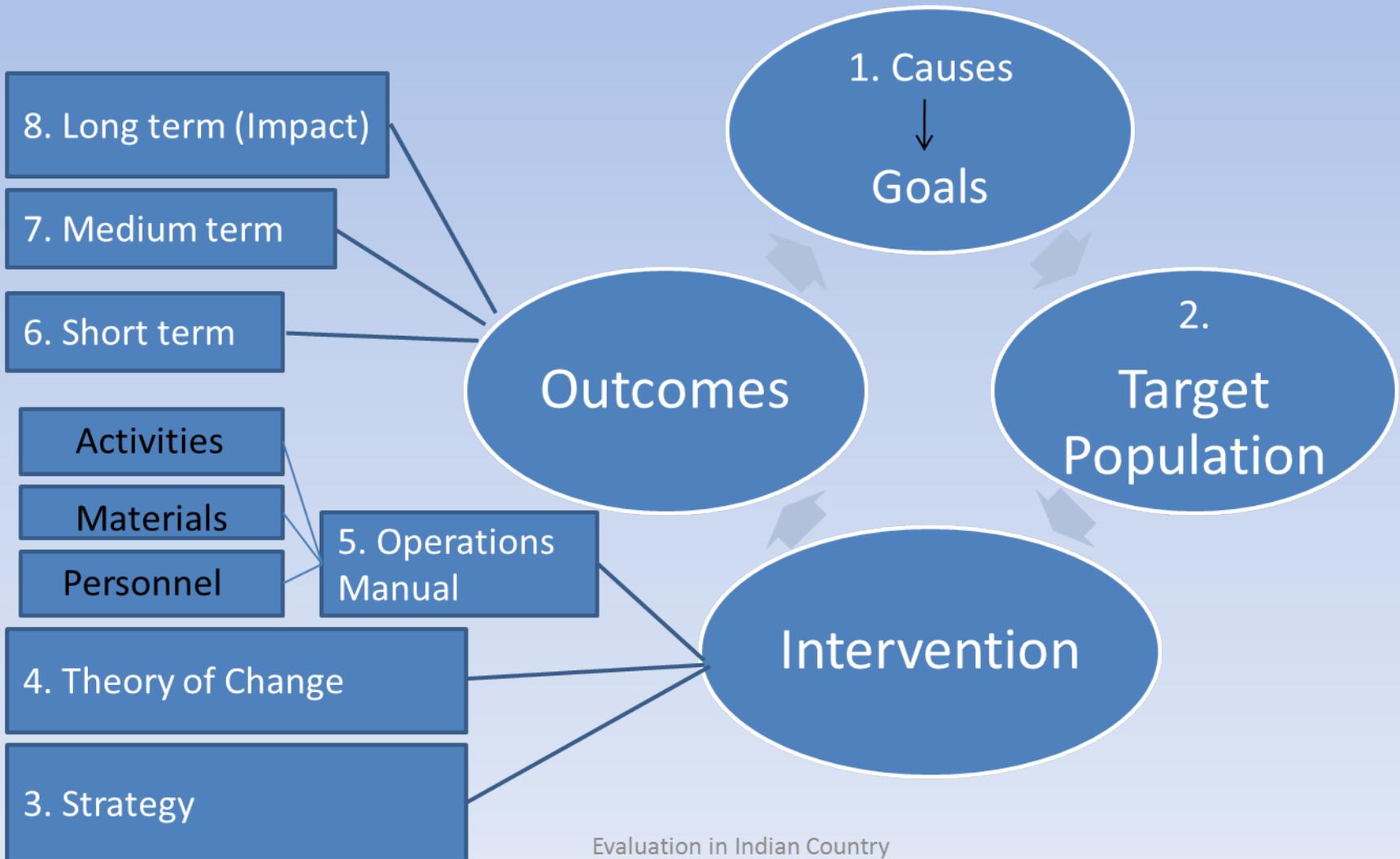
Epistemology: Key to “cultural appropriateness”

- **Stop!** Rethink your entire approach
 - *Ways of knowing*
 - Criteria of “*proof*”
 - What matters

Contribution of Science: Evaluability

- Program theory and clarification
- Input-process-outcome
- **The Logic Model**

Logic Model



Culture:

Why Understand Epistemology of Culture-Based Practices?

- Develop new CBP
- Validate proposed CBP
- Culturally appropriate tests of what works
- Cross-walk to EBP and PBP
- Disseminate and improve CBP
- Empower indigenous knowledge

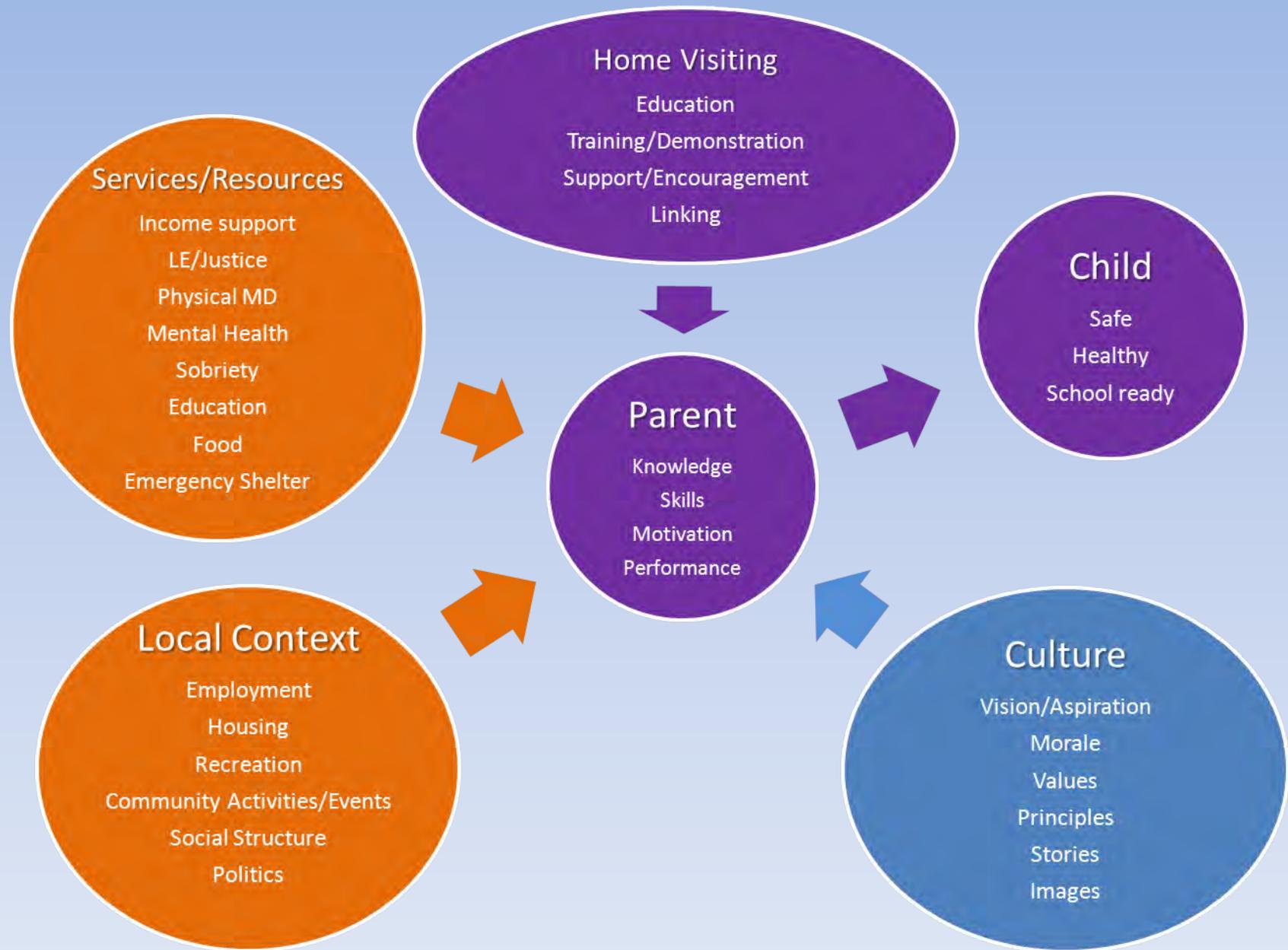
Phase 3

Specifying Cultural Validity

- TBP \equiv EBP
- Criteria of cultural validity
- Buy-in to scientific approach

Criteria for **Cultural** Validity

- Longevity
- Teachings
 - Values
 - Principles
- Elder's approval
- Community feedback/evaluation/acceptance



Logic Model: Culture-Based **Activities**

- Experience, observation, listening, participating
- Traditions, ceremonies, daily observances
- Stories, songs, artwork
- Oral, modeling, practice, animation
- Language, worldview, teachings, experience

Logic Model: Culture-Based **Materials**

- Settings
- Dress; Regalia
- Symbols; Graphics;
Pictures
- Sensory Substances
- **Food**
- **Fun**

Logic Model: Culture-Based **Outcomes**

- Balance
- Connection
 - family
 - culture
 - community
 - natural world
 - spiritual world
- Identity
- Meaning
- Power and hope
- Self-esteem
- Community
 - norms
 - adaptive capacity
 - sharing and support

Institutionalize the Culture-Based Approach to Evaluation

- AMH initiative
- Tribal involvement & acceptance
- State legislative recognition (parallel to EBP)

Lessons Learned: Plan for Advancing Evaluation of Culture-Based Programs

Objective

- Develop a logic model
- Understand evaluability
- Increasing commitment to evaluation

Action

- TPB form, suggestions, and instructions in logic model format
- Goals, activities, and outcomes in measurable terms
- Participation of Tribes in conceptualizing TBP in both Culture-Based and evaluable terms