

ON THE Horizon

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A NOTE FROM PHYLLIS GLINK

Welcome to the first issue of *On the Horizon*!

It's my hope that this newsletter will be a way for us to stay connected, to amplify stories of our partners' work and impact, and to update you on the Foundation's sunsetting journey.

I'm grateful for the countless messages of support we've received in response to our sunsetting announcement. In talking with many of you, I'm struck by how far we've come together in our work to build a more just world for babies, families, and communities—and how important it will be for the Foundation to do everything we can over the next several years to ensure the work can continue for a long time to come.

The name *On the Horizon* was chosen with that forward-looking view in mind. It recognizes our sunsetting journey and celebrates you, our extraordinary partners—whose leadership, commitment, and courage will continue to advance the work long after the Foundation sunsets.

We are excited to be part of this vibrant, engaged community and to continue working together with you to shift power and imagine new possibilities on the horizon.

Phyllis Glink
Executive Director



SUNSETTING UPDATES

Sunsetting creates an opportunity for new thinking and bold dreaming to ensure we're making the greatest impact in our focus areas.

To facilitate this work, IHF is in the process of hiring a strategic consultant who will collaborate closely with our team and partners. We look forward to sharing more information with you in the months ahead.

GRANTEE TOWNHALLS

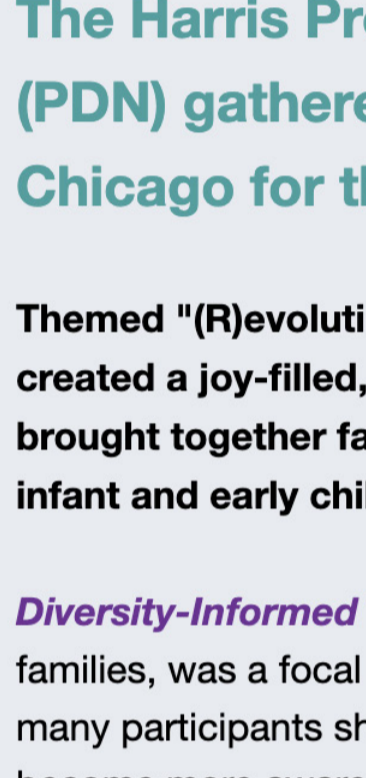
Thank you to our grantee partners who attended IHF's virtual townhalls in March and April!

These conversations were an opportunity to directly share info about our sunsetting, to hear our partners' reflections and questions, and to begin the process of working through the answers together. A few of the questions that have come up in our conversations with our grantee and other partners include, *"What does it mean for our work to hold ourselves accountable to our legacy, our commitment to center racial equity and justice and our partners as we move through our sunset journey?"* and *"What does it mean to leave the ecosystems where we work stronger, better resourced and able to continue this work well into the future?"* These are just two of many questions we will be exploring with our strategic consultant and our grantee and other partners in the months and years ahead.

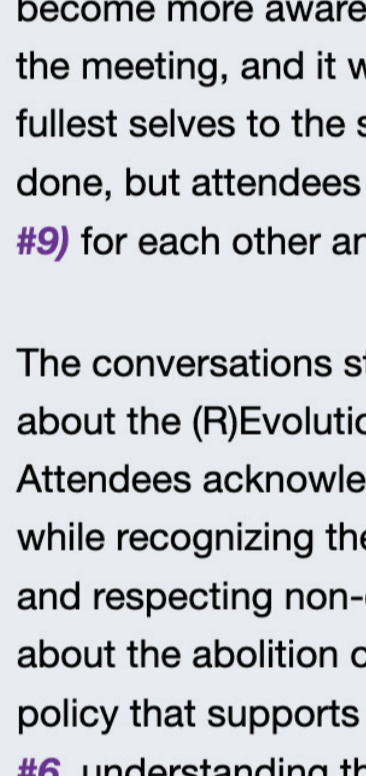
We're here for you.
Have additional thoughts, questions, or feelings about IHF's sunsetting?

Contact us

Grantee Reflections on Sunsetting



Miriam Calderón | [Zero to Three](#)
"You all have been such an important and impactful funder leader—taking stances and supporting issues before their time, going against the current when needed. I am sad and yet I understand that this decision is another demonstration of that commitment to values and prescient ability to see around the curve."



Kriss Sulka | [UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital](#)
"I am inspired and moved by the foundation's continued efforts to grow and shift and prioritize social and racial justice. I am grateful to be and to have been a small part of this journey."

PDN MEETING RECAP

The Harris Professional Development Network (PDN) gathered in person from March 13-15 in Chicago for the first time since the pandemic!

Themed **"(R)evolution of Infant and Early Childhood,"** this meeting created a joy-filled, thought-provoking, and collaborative space that brought together familiar and new faces to reimagine the future of infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH).

Diversity-Informed Tenet #1, self-awareness leads to better services for families, was a focal point of our time together. It was inspiring to witness many participants share their journeys and ancestry, pushing themselves to become more aware of their "why." Joy was felt, seen, and heard throughout the meeting, and it was an honor to see so many comfortable bringing their fullest selves to the space. Embracing the both/and is often easier said than done, but attendees leaned in, made space, and opened pathways (**Tenet #9**) for each other and the next phase of the evolution of IECMH.

The conversations started at the PDN were an invitation to think critically about the (R)Evolution of the IECMH field and personal (r)evolutions. Attendees acknowledged and paid homage to the history of the IECMH field while recognizing the harms that have been done by not always honoring and respecting non-dominant bodies of knowledge (**Tenet #4**). Discussions about the abolition of the child welfare system explored ways to advance policy that supports all families (**Tenet #10**). Participants embodied **Tenet #6**, understanding that language can hurt and heal, by speaking their truths and getting comfortable with the uncomfortable. Their joy, laughter, tears, and willingness to engage in meaningful dialogue and reflection enriched the collective experience.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this transformative gathering!

To learn more about the PDN please [click here](#)
To learn more about the Diversity Informed Tenets please [click here](#)

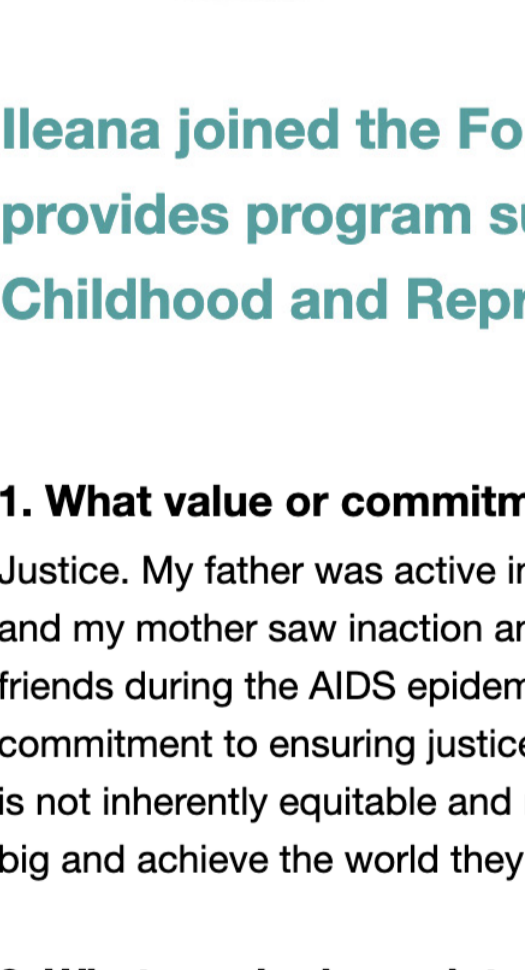
Highlights

- This was the largest PDN gathering to date with **125 attendees** including long-standing partners, intersectional work partner organizations, and brand-new grantee partners to the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health team.
- Attendees shared they felt an **overwhelming sense of community**, connection, and care throughout the meeting after not being in-person since the pandemic.
- The panel discussion on the abolition of the child welfare system left some attendees **"with a new frame for holding our communities most impacted by child welfare systems,"** and to focus on "more abolition-focused innovations."
- There were **intentional moments of joy, reflection, and pause** through music, dancing, journaling, candle making, sound baths.
- The **Diversity-Informed Tenets** helped to set the tone for the meeting.
- We honored and invited **ancestors and chosen family** into the meeting through a meditative practice, and attendees dreamed about what type of ancestors they want to be to future generations.



Pictured above: PDN participants, panelists, and activities.

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



5 Questions with **Ileana López-Martínez**
Program Associate

Ileana joined the Foundation in 2023. She provides program support in the areas of Early Childhood and Reproductive Health & Justice.

- 1. What value or commitment is central in your life?**
Justice. My father was active in the Civil Rights Movement in Chicago, and my mother saw inaction and stigma lead to the death of her close friends during the AIDS epidemic. My parents raised me with a strong commitment to ensuring justice prevails, emphasizing that the status quo is not inherently equitable and my responsibility is to help others dream big and achieve the world they want.
- 2. What sparked your interest in joining IHF?**
I wanted to work somewhere that was bold and brave in naming their goals. I was thrilled to see IHF name reproductive justice explicitly, and its deep understanding of how this movement is tied to early childhood outcomes. Moreover, IHF has funded these areas long before they were hot topics, which reassured me that the work we're doing is for the long haul!
- 3. What's your favorite part about your work?**
Meeting grantee partners and hearing about the incredible work they're doing! Every check-in, seminar, and event with our grantee partners gives me the opportunity to see how people are dreaming and creating the just world their communities desire. They make me hopeful for what's possible in the near future.
- 4. As IHF moves into sunsetting, what opportunities do you see on the horizon?**
Sunsetting comes with the opportunity to analyze what the role of philanthropy will be in the future. I'm excited to continue promoting trust-based philanthropy among our funding partners and to listen to our grantee partners to shift power (along with dollars) to the people doing the work! If we're going to build a just world, we have to get real about how philanthropy has contributed to systemic inequities and hoarded power and wealth. I'm pleased with the conversations IHF has already had and excited for how we will continue to collaborate to shift power!
- 5. What's a fun fact people might not know about you?**
Most people know I'm an avid baker, but I also enjoy crochet! I recently finished a sweater with the Morton Salt Girl graphic that took almost a year. I'm not quick, but I love showing off what I've made. Next up: a Snoopy tote bag!



We're Hiring

Interested in joining a collaborative team working to build a more just world for babies, families, and communities? The Foundation will be posting a number of career opportunities in the coming weeks. Please check our website for the latest info.

Careers at IHF