

The Texas Capitol gets a lot more crowded each odd-numbered year. This January marked the start of the 88th Legislative Session in Texas, and the start of a busy season for Alison Mohr Boleware.

As the Director of Policy for the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, Mohr Boleware leads the policy unit at Hogg, overseeing policy initiatives and collaborating on projects designed to catalyze change and improve the mental health of all Texans.



Alison (left) with the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health Policy Team

“I love being in Texas, I want to make Texas better. I think that we have so many good ideas,” Mohr Boleware said. “I think we just need to collaborate and actually put funding and put effort towards these ideas.”

Her love of Texas runs deep, as she is a sixth-generation Texan. Mohr Boleware grew up in a small town in the Midland-Odessa area before moving to College Station to get her bachelor’s degree in International Studies from Texas A&M.

She studied abroad in China as an undergrad, and experienced culture shock arriving in China, and then again returning to the U.S.

“I just started thinking about everything differently. I started thinking about things through the eyes of someone who wasn’t from the United States or from someone who wasn’t in the majority,” Mohr Boleware said. “When I was explaining to someone what I wanted to do, they said, that sounds like social work. And when I looked it up, it kind of fell into place. And that was my...foray into the social work field.”

That led her to the University of Texas at Austin for graduate school, where she got her master’s degree in Social Work. She always wanted to work in the macro social work field and had plans to work in the nonprofit sector. In graduate school, she completed an internship doing case management with clients in extreme poverty who had many barriers stacked against them.

“That experience made me want to try my hand in the policy space. So, when I did my first internship at the Capitol, I was honestly hooked,” Mohr Boleware said. “Since then, I’ve been in this space just trying to slowly but surely improve things for our state.”

After she graduated, Mohr Boleware worked in and around the Capitol as a legislative aid to a state representative and staffed the Human Services Committee.

“[I] really got to see a lot of mental health, disability, and child welfare-related bills. That was pretty much all that I worked on. That was my first introduction into the mental health policy space,” Mohr Boleware said.

She went on to serve as a Hogg Foundation Policy Fellow, a Policy Analyst at the Texas Medical Association, and the Government Relations Director at the National Association of Social Workers Texas before returning to Hogg as the Director of Policy.



Alison (right) at the Social Work Advocacy Day at the Capitol in 2020



*Alison (right) with Rep. Four Price (center) and Will Francis (left), Executive Director of the National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter.*

Mohr Boleware began attending JCMH meetings when she worked for the National Association of Social Workers Texas and joined the Collaborative Council when she came into her new position at Hogg. She enjoys coming to meetings to connect with people who work all over the state.

“I always love hearing from people who are doing the work in the community, and I think that can sometimes be missed in the Capitol,” Mohr Boleware said. “I love...being a part of the group and hearing from people from all different parts of Texas.”

When she isn’t working on policy to help those in our communities with mental health and IDD challenges, Mohr Boleware likes camping, hiking, yoga, and enjoying the outdoors. She has also recently taken up learning to golf. She lives in Austin with her husband and their two cats.