

The Hogg Foundation Archives

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health seeks to transform how communities promote mental health in everyday life. We recognize the impact of history on the communities we serve. To review this impact, our archive has records dating back to the 1940s. These records provide historical context for understanding the current landscape of mental healthcare.

With over 200 linear feet of paper files and 650 GB of digital files, there is so much to discover. While some of our material is available online, there is even more to discover in person. The archive is open to the public by appointment.

To make an appointment, email hogg-archives@austin.utexas.edu.

Collection Highlights

Grants & Programs

Records for programs funded by the foundation, including grant proposals, final reports, request for proposals, and minutes from the grants review committee.

Communication Records

Newsletters, press releases, publications that include hundreds of pamphlets on a wide-range of mental health topics, and recorded news coverage in audio and film formats.

Administrative Documents

Policy documents, organizational charts, legal, and financial documents.

Events

Documents from Hogg Foundation sponsored events, including the Robert Lee Sutherland seminars, National Advisory Council meetings, and grantee partner meetings.

Director & Staff Files

Materials related to past foundation directors and staff, including travel records.

Hogg Family Artifacts

Documents and artifacts related to the Hogg family, including last wills and testaments, estate appraisals, family correspondences, art, textiles, and other ephemera.



Mental Health History

Through a generous donation from Ima Hogg, the Hogg Foundation was founded in 1940. The foundation is the first private foundation dedicated to the cause of mental health. Early advocates focused on educating the public about mental health concepts. They believed that mental health and mental illness existed on a continuum. Advocates also believed that issues encountered in everyday life contribute to well-being. Mental health and mental illness were no longer in the shadows. These ideas still influence us today.



Key Moments



Circuit Riders for Mental Health 1940s-1950s, the Hogg Foundation used the term "Circuit Rider" to describe the mental health experts who gave public lectures around the state. This term comes from the days when a preacher would go evangelizing from town-to-town. Most Texans in the 1940s were unfamiliar with "mental health," so lecturers from the Hogg Foundation crusaded to "spread the good word" to their neighbors.

State Hospital Reform 1940s-1960s, the Hogg Foundation played a key role in Texas mental health care policy. Mental health advocates worked together to improve the practices of mental health institutions. In the 1940s, the Hogg Foundation sponsored studies and worked with state agencies to improve training for hospital staff. In the 1950s, the Hogg Foundation produced a film and published pamphlets. They also brought mental health experts like William Menninger to speak to the legislature. All these efforts helped pass the state's first Mental Health Code in 1957.





Listen to Into the Fold on Apple, Google, & SoundCloud.

The Human Condition 1971-1983, the foundation produced a radio show called "The Human Condition." This show, hosted by Bert Kruger Smith, featured interviews with experts on mental health and human behavior like Roy Wilkins. Roy was a civil rights icon and long-time leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). This ground-breaking radio show serves as an influence on our podcast "Into the Fold."

First Robert Lee Sutherland Seminar 1978, this seminar brought together more than 1,000 people. Participants focused on the President's Commission on Mental Health and its implications for Texas. First Lady Rosalynn Carter was the keynote speaker. This event launched a series of conferences about mental health that continues today.

The Recovery Movement early 2000s, the Hogg Foundation focused its grant-making efforts on empowering consumers of mental health services to take part at all levels in the systematic reform of mental health care in Texas.







About the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health

Established in 1940, the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health envisions a future in which the people of Texas thrive in communities that support mental health and well-being. Using a variety of approaches, including grantmaking, convening, research, and public policy, the foundation works collaboratively to transform how communities promote mental health in everyday life.