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Day of  
**Advocacy**

# LUNCH AND LEARN

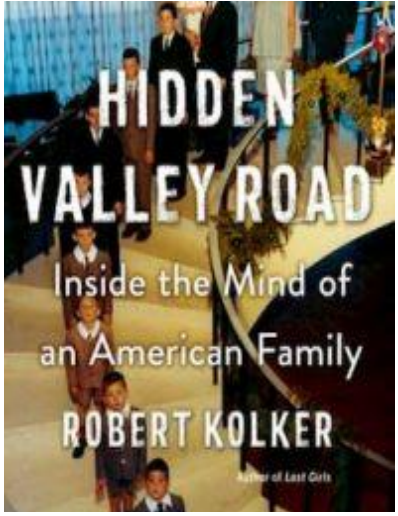
Lindsay Galvin Rauch and **Leslie Carpenter**



# Leslie Carpenter

Legislative Advocacy Manager for the Treatment Advocacy Center, a co-founder of Iowa Mental Health Advocacy, lobbyist in the Iowa Legislature, AND mother of an adult affected by Severe Mental Illness





# Lindsay Galvin Rauch

Colorado native, event planner,  
& fierce mental health advocate  
The youngest of twelve siblings,  
with six brothers diagnosed with  
schizophrenia.





# What is SMI/SPMI?

The word *severe* in **Severe Persistent Mental Illness** (SPMI) refers to the acuteness of symptoms. Thus, SPMI is more extreme than Serious Mental Illness. When psychotic spectrum disorders are also severe, the illness creates a significant disconnect from reality.



# Anosognosia

an inability to recognize your own illness

“Least restrictive level of care” means the least limiting, confining, and coercive treatment that still meets an individual’s needs and ensures their safety and the safety of others.

Because of **Anosognosia** freedom from institutions can result in homelessness or time spent in jail



# Ghost Asylums

When the system fails, family homes become “ghost asylums.” Parents are expected to be therapists, medication managers, support systems, and sometimes jailers – all with little information and even less support.



# Compulsory Care

Protective arrangements include certification for a mental health hold, guardianship, non-voluntary hospitalization, court-ordered medication, incarceration, and other forms of removing people with mental illness from the community or limiting the decision-making power of an individual.



# 2026 Legislative Session Bills We Support

**SB26-006**

Parity for Non-Opioid Pain Management  
Drugs

**SB26-008**

Mental Health Access

**HB26-1002**

Provider Participation in Health Insurance

**HB26-1063**

Treating People with Behavioral Health  
Disorder

**HB26-1064**

Youthful Offender System Updates

**SB26-014**

Modification to Defense of NGRI

# 2026 Legislative Session Bills we plan to support once they are introduced

## **Competency TBA**

Concerning Pathways for Individuals from the Criminal Justice System to the Civil Justice System

## **Redefining Gravely Disabled TBA**

This bill is in the works, but will clarify the issue of deterioration and may acknowledge Anosognosia as a part of SMI

# **COMADMOMS**

**We are fighting for a care continuum designed to address severe mental illness.**

**We are fighting for humane treatment in healthcare, legal, and justice systems.**

**We are fighting for the ability to help our loved ones.**