



# Social Impact Report 2023

We Shatter the Silence and Inspire Change for the 22 Million Who Live with Serious Mental Illness/Serious Brain Disorders



Visit Our Website

[NationalShatteringSilenceCoalition.org](https://NationalShatteringSilenceCoalition.org)

# Report Dedication

We dedicate this report to Jeanne Gore, NSSC's founder and champion leader. Jeanne carried the torch to light the way for those struggling with and affected by Serious Brain Disorders (SBD's), fighting to amplify their voices and their loved ones' voices. Her undeterred attitude to foster community and band together with all of us touched by these illnesses reached far and deep. We are extremely saddened by her absence and wish to honor her legacy. There is still much work to do in terms of "moving the needle" to get the results we've intended from the organization's inception. As we look forward to facing the realities of our country's state of care and attitude toward SBD's, we ought to remind ourselves of Jeanne's continuing anthem: the more voices we raise, the more awareness we grow, the more changes we inspire, the more lives saved. At this time, we reflect on the amazing testimony Jeanne gave to us as a mother and friend, and celebrate a life that was lived bravely and generously.

A photograph of Jeanne Gore, a woman with reddish-brown curly hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blue, textured cardigan over a dark top. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery. The photo is partially overlaid by a large, stylized graphic element consisting of a green and yellow curved shape.

In Memoriam  
**Jeanne Gore**  
1958-2023

# Report Dedication (Continued)

Terrell Alston, 8/16/16

Farron Barksdale, 8/20/07

Bill Becker, 2/8/15

Paul Blair, 12/78

Sasha Bond, 8/16/20

Kelsey Rose Brouillette, 10/28/18

Gina "GG" G. Burns, 11/6/19

Casey Alan Campbell, 10/1/09

Brad Cappucci, 12/21

Calvin Clark, 3/18/19

Daniel Douglas, 9/9/18

Paul Flannery, 5/1/08

Josh Francisco, 10/22/14

Jack Leonard Gates, 1/18/23

Vince Gieser, 8/27/13

Katie "Kate" Gorfinkle, 4/27/22

Nolan Edward Harris, 6/18/17

Walter "Guy" Justus, 6/10/19

Laurie Mendoza, 6/20

Tristin Murphy, 9/16/21

Cynthia Montoya, 7/12/22

John "JT" Terrence Norton, 12/15/16

Christopher P. Pickering, 11/12/20

Zaccaria "Zac" William Pogliano, 1/18/15

Kevin Powers, 6/15/05

Dr. Robert Powitsky, PhD, 10/26/19

Patrick Ranahan, 7/23/14

Joseph Reinig, 10/6/21

Charles "Chuck" Winston Renz, 11/11/08

James Mark Rippee, 11/29/22

Ronald Michael Robbibaro, 8/5/16

Evan Rumlow, 5/21

Jonathan Salcido, 5/4/17

Carl (Robby) Talbot, 3/21/19

Christopher John "CJ" Twomey, 4/14/10

Justin Wilkerson, 1/5/21

Brian Wood, 3/22/18

To all who died way too soon with serious brain disorders, you are not forgotten!

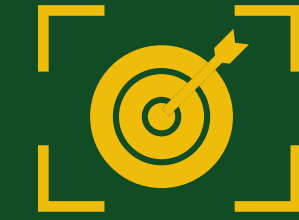
**Rest in Peace**

# Vision & Mission



## Our Vision

We envision a world where families, caregivers, and those with Serious Mental Illness/Serious Brain Disorders are empowered by early and immediate access to equitable, compassionate treatment and support to minimize human suffering.



## Our Mission

Raising awareness and advocating for solutions to the suffering faced by those affected by Serious Mental Illness/Serious Brain Disorders through education, outreach, and grassroots reform.

# Organizational Pillars



## Educational Awareness

Amplifying the voices of those with SMI/SBDs and their loved ones through life stories, professional and peer talks, sharing resources, and media.



## Community Collaboration

Addressing the treatment of those with SMI/SBDs by collaborating with community stakeholders (police, EMTs, treatment providers, and crisis intervention) through educational awareness.



## Grassroots Reform

Advocating for change in federal and state laws to improve quality of life and the way those with SMI/SBDs are treated in our nation's social services, healthcare, and criminal justice system.

# Who We Are

We are the voices for those living with and dying too young from serious mental illness/serious brain disorders (SMI/SBDs).

Since October 2017, the National Shattering Silence Coalition has been speaking out and inspiring change for over 8 million children (1 in 10) and 14.2 million adults (1 in 20) with SMI/SBDs.

Our nonpartisan alliance of family members, individuals suffering from SMI/SBDs, professionals in the trenches, and caring people, all united to ensure brain illness, health, and criminal justice systems count those with SMI/SBDs, and their families in all federal, state, and local policy reforms.



# Educational Awareness Impacts



## Pro Talk

The Honorable **Judge Milton Mack**, NSSC's Judicial Advisor and Michigan State Courts Administrator Emeritus, kicked off our first "Pro Talk" entitled "Issues in Effective AOT Implementation and Management: The Michigan Experience." This webinar discussed Assisted Outpatient Treatment's (AOT) success in Michigan for families and courts needing solutions to cases of loved ones with SMI/SBD.



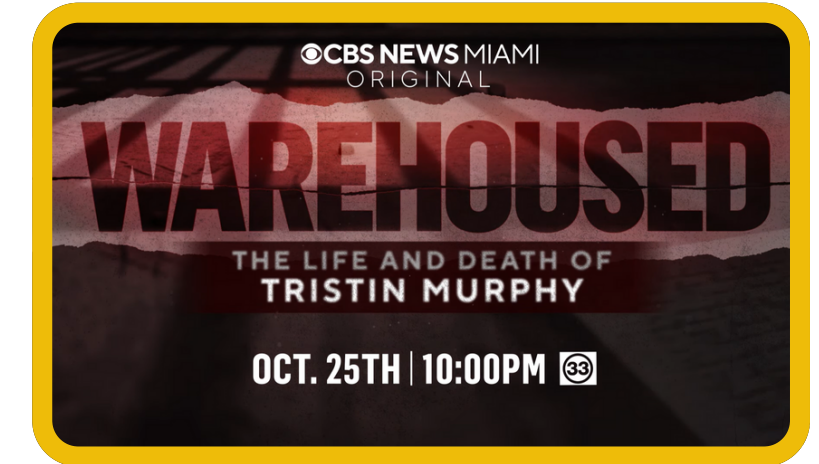
## Peer Talk

Peer **Bradley Tarr** kicked off NSSC's first "Peer Talk" presenting on "Stopping the Revolving Door: How AOT Helps the Mentally Ill." Bradley is the first individual to ever enter into, and graduate from, the AOT Program, in the Mansfield/Richland County area of Ohio.



## YouTube Channel Interviews

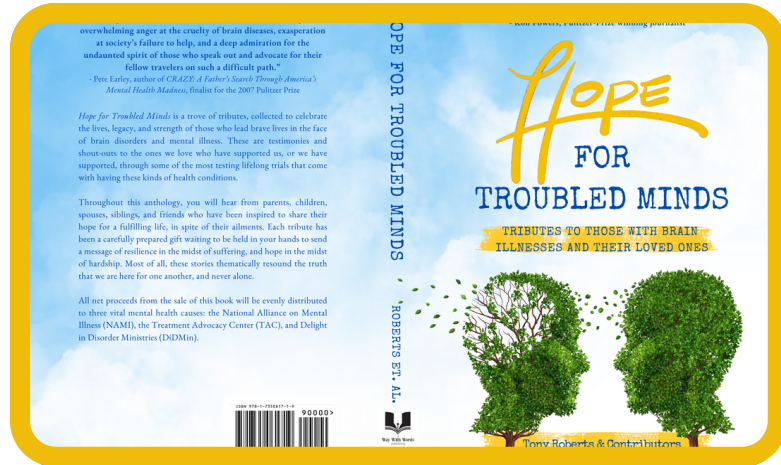
**Eric Dias**, media specialist and member of the steering committee, interviewed member **Leslie Carpenter**, who discusses how she went from a mom seeking treatment for her son with schizophrenia to becoming a powerful advocate for those living with serious brain disorders in a system designed to fail. Eric also interviewed **Brian Stettin, SMI Sr. Advisor to the NYC Mayor Adams**, about how to build up a neglected healthcare system. Both these and our Pro/Peer Talks can be found on NSSC's Youtube channel



## Television Documentary

NSSC member **Cindee Murphy**, shared the CBS broadcasted documentary detailing the tragic, incomprehensible and preventable suicide of her son Tristin. "WAREHOUSED: The Life and Death of Tristin Murphy." is an hour long documentary exploring the treatment of the mentally ill in the criminal justice system. Cindee is helping to shatter the silence in sharing her difficult and painful story with the world. #mentalillnessisnotacrime

# Educational Awareness Impacts (Continued)



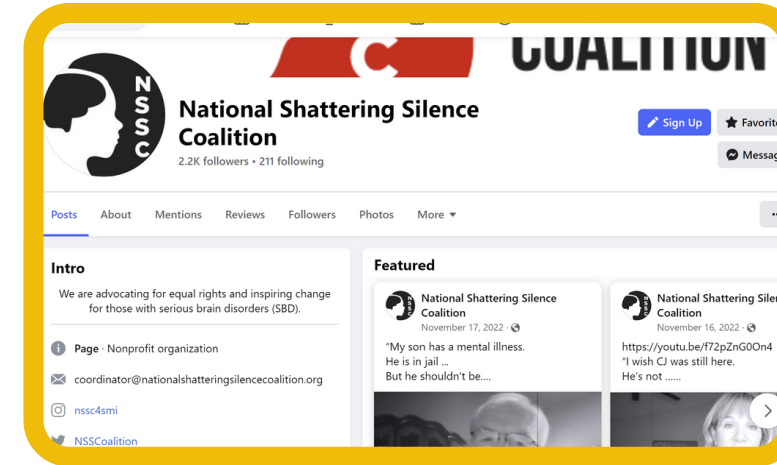
## Published Anthology

Numerous NSSC members have a contribution included in the newly released Hope For Troubled Minds. This anthology by member **Tony Roberts** of Delight in Disorder Ministries is a collection of letters and tributes to those with brain illnesses and their loved ones.



## Letters to Publications

Executive Director, **Ann Corcoran RN, MSN**, in collaboration with the AOTNOW Organization where she serves as an Advisor, had a letter published in the Cure SZ Foundation newsletter titled, "Enough is Enough! The Case For Assisted Outpatient Treatment". She had three letters published in The Boston Globe, "A Failed Revolving Door Policy", "States Could Prevent Tragedies by Easing Barriers to Care" and "Lessons from Lewiston, learned the hard way: Mass has seen similar tragedies - and gaps in prevention" written in response to articles that reported on the outcomes of untreated serious mental illness in the state.



## Social Media Reach

Co-chair of the communications committee, **Lynn Nanos, LICSW**, shares relevant articles, news stories and events on NSSC's social media channels promoting educational awareness to those living with SMI/SBD and their families.



## Television Report

Member **Anita Fisher** shares her son's story of life with schizophrenia on a 60 Minutes segment about California's CARE Court. In this broadcast, she explains how she has fought to secure involuntary treatment for his wellbeing and access to competent and comprehensive services. She and others in California saw Senate Bill 43 passed this year in progress to implement CARE Court throughout the state.

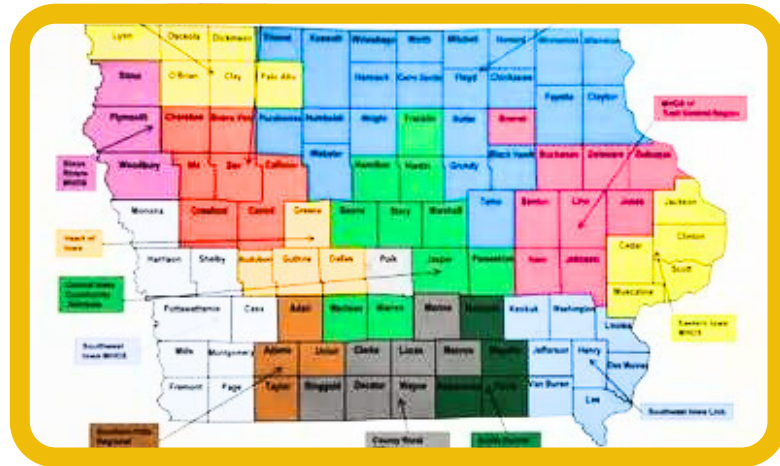


# Community Collaboration Impacts



## Good News for Churches

**Katie Dale**, NSSC co-chair of the communications committee and coordinator emeritus, shared a talk with the worldwide virtual Church Mental Health Summit 2023, which had 12,000 viewers this year. Her talk was entitled, "Getting Serious About Mental Illness: How to Handle A Church Member in SMI" and contrasted pastoral myths about serious mental illness and brain disorders with medically appropriate responses to Depression, Mania, and Psychosis.



## Engaging & Leveraging Stakeholder Relationships

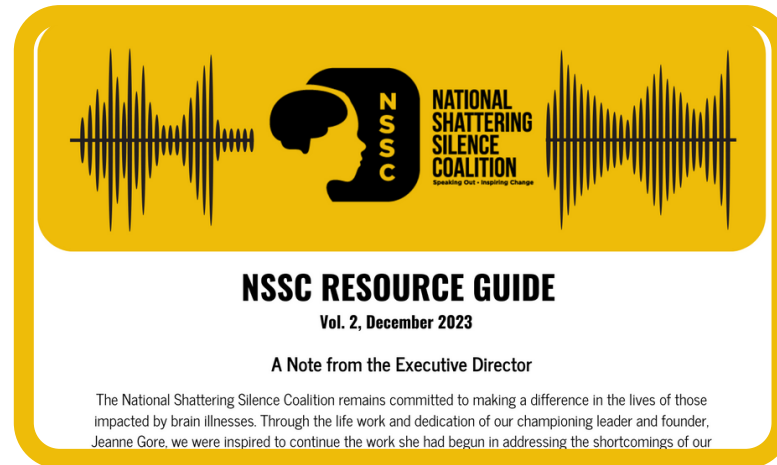
**Leslie Carpenter**, member and advocacy advisor, was instrumental in getting Iowa's first AOT program implemented in Johnson County, five years after the state improved its civil commitment law to allow for it. She has begun conversations with key stakeholders in several counties including Mental Health and Disability Service Regions to help facilitate development of programs there.



## Advising & Advocating for Better Treatment

Executive Director, **Ann Corcoran, RN, MSN**, has been involved in multiple advisory boards in her home state of Massachusetts where she continues to educate stakeholders on the failures of the current system and the need for the passing of an AOT law in the state. #right2treatment

# Community Collaboration Impacts (Continued)



## Offering Resources

- **Katie Dale** composed a resource guide that was made available to all members. Within this guide are valuable resources that connect members to like-minded organizations for support, keep them up to date, and help them to discover new resources.
- **Marcie Sohara**, Assistant Director and co-chair of the steering committee, provides resources to caregivers of those newly diagnosed with SMI/SBD's in Pennsylvania. She continues to help countless families navigate what can be a difficult system providing support and guidance in times of need.



## LinkedIn Leads

Executive Director, **Ann Corcoran, RN, MSN**, was a guest speaker on Corey Minor Smith's [Mental WELLth Wednesday LinkedIn Live show](#), where they had a great discussion on the need for families to be the voice for their loved ones living with serious mental illness/serious brain disorders who are too sick to fight for their right to medical care, a right every human deserves.



## Authority on Fixing the System

Executive Director, **Ann Corcoran, RN, MSN**, was interviewed by Stephanie Greer for Authority Magazine on [Healing A Broken Mental Health System: 5 Things That Can Be Done To Fix Our Broken Mental Health System](#).

# Grassroots Reform Impacts



## Press Conference

Member **Laurie Turley** in conjunction with other Maine NSSC members, held a press conference highlighting the need for the expanded use and support of Maine's Progressive Treatment Program (the state's version of AOT) in response to the mass shooting in Maine after all warning signs were ignored. #treatmentB4tragedy



## ISMICC Comments

NSSC members continue to show up and make comments at federal ISMICC (Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee) meetings. At the semi-annual meeting in October, five public comments were read by NSSC members calling for action to help improve the lives of those living with serious mental illness. They drove home the point that despite the increased funding we are seeing for mental health at the federal level, there is still so much to do for those living with no-fault brain disorders.



## Medicaid Rates Adjustments

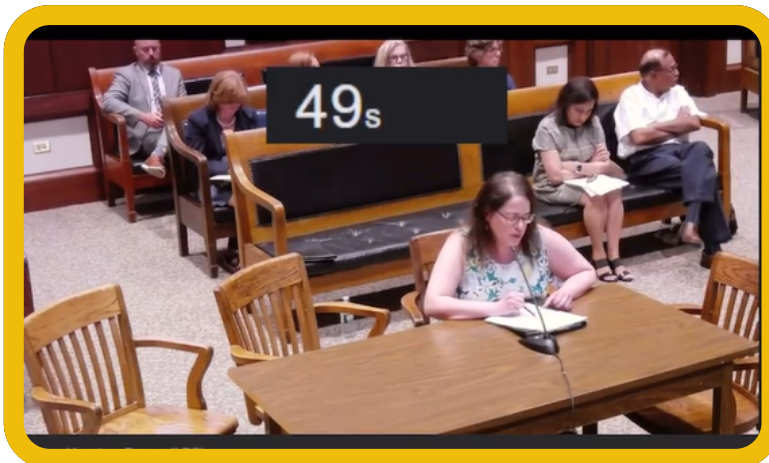
Advocacy Advisor **Leslie Carpenter** was involved in advocacy in the Legislature to help increase Medicaid rates for some mental health services, funded adding 9 Psychiatric Residencies and 3 Fellowships at Iowa's state facilities, and funded loan forgiveness for MH professionals to work in areas of high need in the state.

# Grassroots Reform Impacts (Continued)



## Catalyst to State Court Changes

Education Coordinator and member **Dr. Edmund Creekmore** presents regularly before the Virginia Behavioral Health Commission and the Virginia General Assembly on issues related to Mandatory Outpatient Treatment, family peer support, and Medicaid Waiver funding for SMI. Dr. Creekmore is a forensic psychologist and independent examiner for the VA Supreme Court. He successfully helped implement a passed resolution and renewal of the EDCOT (Expedited Diversion to Court-Ordered Treatment) study. His work and advocacy in this role has been instrumental to the state of Virginia's court system in how those with SBDs are treated and processed in their state's mental healthcare system.



## AOT Legislative Hearings

- **Lynn Nanos, LICSW**, co-chair of the communications committee and member of the steering committee, testified in support of the AOT legislation filed in Massachusetts. Lynn gave her book, "Breakdown A Clinician's Experience In a Broken System of Emergency Psychiatry," to the Chair of the Judiciary Committee detailing the failures of the system in Massachusetts.
- Other written testimonies in favor of the AOT legislation filed in Massachusetts were submitted by **Ann Corcoran, RN, MSN** and **Edmund Creekmore, Ph.D.** on behalf of the NSSC.



## Standing in the Gap

Member **Rachel Cappuci** went to lengths to fight for her brother Brad who struggled with anosognosia and schizophrenia, losing his life to hypothermia in Yellowstone National Park. As Massachusetts courts deliberated on Assisted Outpatient Treatment programs this year, [a local nonprofit news outlet shared her story](#) in building the case to support involuntary outpatient treatment programs.

# By the Numbers

## Membership Reach

In 2023, we saw a reach of upwards of 120,000 lives impacted by the combined efforts of our membership.



## Funding Cashflow

In 2023 we raised \$ 3,006.00 and had \$1,317.45 in expenditures. We rely on annual membership dues for our current funding.

## Volunteer-Driven

Our nonprofit has continued to expand in membership this year to 423 members, with 8 volunteer-led administrative roles.



## Organizational Structure

We are one of 100s collectives run under the nonprofit Open Collective Foundation. See more at [OpenCollective.com/NSSC](https://OpenCollective.com/NSSC).

# Future Goals

## Website Updates

As our organization grows and shifts into our refreshed vision, mission, and pillars, we are updating the look to our website to reflect these changes. Coming in 2024.



## Adding Programs

In 2024 we look to continue our quarterly professional and peer talks, and begin planning for a Family Advocacy Peer Program for mentoring opportunities.

## Fiscal Planning

We continue to plan for the future of our growing organization to include future fundraising possibilities of grants and drives.



## Looking to Get Involved?

We are always looking for more hands on deck. Please consider stepping up to fill a needed role and letting us know by emailing us at [Coordinator@NationalShatteringSilenceCoalition.org](mailto:Coordinator@NationalShatteringSilenceCoalition.org).

# A Note from Our Executive Director

The National Shattering Silence Coalition remains committed to making a difference in the lives of those impacted by brain illnesses. Through the life work and dedication of our championing leader and founder, Jeanne Gore, we were inspired to continue the work she had begun in addressing the shortcomings of our nation's failure to care for those with Serious Mental Illness (Serious Brain Disorders). The important work of NSSC continues as we roll up our sleeves and amplify our voices to create measurable and lasting changes.....**but we can't do it without you!**

Please consider making a donation through our voluntary membership dues. National Shattering Silence Coalition is an all volunteer organization, the funds raised covering operating expenses. It is through the generosity of our members that we can continue to shatter the silence and inspire change!

In Solidarity,



Ann Corcoran, RN, MSN



[Join & Donate Today to](#)  
[Make Your Impact Felt](#)



**NATIONAL  
SHATTERING  
SILENCE  
COALITION**

# Thank You

## To Our Contributing Sponsors

**R. Anthony and Sheila L. Carter  
Foundation**

## Organizational Members

A Path Of Enlightenment Healing Arts  
Advocates for Ethical Mental Health Treatment  
Amazing Grace Advocacy  
AOTNOW  
Arun Gupta MD PC  
AwarenessTies  
CBI  
CURE IL  
Delight in Disorder Ministries  
Echo Christian Fellowship  
El Saber Es Poder  
Texans For Mental Health Reform  
Healthy Minds Ministry  
Heart Forward LA  
Piece of Mind Film  
Iowa Mental Health Advocacy  
John Henry Foundation  
King of the Road Music  
Kimberly Brouillette, Author/Editor  
Kitt O'Malley, Bipolar Writer & Mental Health Advocate  
Mark L. Ruffalo, DPsa, LCSW  
Mental Wellness Awareness Association, Inc./ American Mental Wellness Association  
Mothers of the Mentally Ill (MOMI)  
NAMI Cook County North Suburban  
NAMI FC  
New Vision Organization, Inc  
OUR Voices  
P82 Project Restoration  
Parents and Advocates of Seriously Mentally Ill  
Private Contractor with Virginia South Psychiatric and others  
Schizophrenia & Psychosis Action Alliance  
SecondAid  
SJ Hart International & Associates  
Sooner Than Tomorrow  
Talbot Fund for Mental Health Advocacy  
Texans For Mental Health Reform  
The DV Walking Wounded Advocacy  
The SMI Bulldog Podcast  
Will County NAMI