

## **“The Dangerous Truth About Today’s Marijuana: Johnny Stack’s Life and Death Story”**

### **Program Description**

Laura Stack’s 19-year-old son, Johnny, died by suicide on November 20, 2019, after becoming psychotic from dabbing high-THC marijuana concentrates. Soon afterward, Laura started a 501c3, Johnny’s Ambassadors, to educate parents, teens, and communities about the dangers of today’s high-THC marijuana on adolescent brain development, mental illness, and suicide. In this session, Laura will share the story of Johnny’s marijuana addiction from a parent’s point of view, a poignant chronicle of the shocking descent from innocence to eventual suicide. Before marijuana, Johnny was a computer whiz with a 4.0 GPA and a perfect math score on the SAT. After marijuana, he stole his family dog from the home and threatened to kill it without payment from his mother. With moving candor, Laura traces the first warning signs, their attempts at rehabilitation, and his eventual demise. Three days before his death, Johnny issued his own warning about marijuana usage. Through this tragic tale, Stack hopes to help parents talk to their children about the dangers of using marijuana. Laura’s real-life story is backed by recent scientific research on how today’s THC products can harm our youth. This presentation is a clarion call for parents across America to educate themselves about the risks of today’s high-THC marijuana products and to better understand the potentially devastating effects on their children.

### **Objectives**

- Participate in a Photo Tour of a Colorado Dispensary and See the High-Potency Marijuana Products Used by Today’s Youth
- Learn About the Endocannabinoid System and How THC Interferes with Adolescent Brain Development
- See the Results of Legalizing Medical Marijuana for 18-Year-Old’s in Colorado
- Understand How Adolescent Marijuana Use Can Lead to Mental Illness and Psychosis
- Discover the Connection Between Youth Marijuana Use and Suicidality

### **Speaker Bio**

For 30 years, Laura Stack was best known in the business world as “The Productivity Pro.” Her career as a keynote speaker, bestselling author of eight books, and corporate spokesperson came to a screeching halt when her son died. Her platform now brings prevention education to drug prevention conferences, community groups, and schools to stop youth marijuana use. Johnny’s story has been told in People Magazine, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, PBS, and Dr. Phil. Laura is a powerful speaker who brings Johnny’s personal warning and solid research together in her book, [\*The Dangerous Truth About Today’s Marijuana: Johnny Stack’s Life and Death Story\*](#). Laura is the recipient of the Drug-Free America Foundation’s Moxie Award for protecting youth from substances, the Leadership in Advocacy Award from the National Speakers Association, and the American Association of Suicidology’s Loss Survivor of the Year Award. Described as a force of nature with unstoppable drive and unwavering purpose, Laura is determined to get teens to #StopDabbing.