



## **Rowan Willis-Gorman**

### ***2024 Paula Hamburger Child Advocacy Award***

Rowan Willis-Gorman's provision of youth peer support and self-advocacy training has had a profound impact on the lives of many young Marylanders, and their leadership with On Our Own of Maryland's Transition Age Youth Outreach Project has advanced the cause of youth voice and choice. She is a passionate advocate for the inclusion of youth and young adults as equal partners in systems change processes, and their training of young adults in advocacy has brought about a cadre of leaders in Maryland that are helping to improve the system of care for youth with mental health and substance use needs. Rowan has dedicated herself to advocating for LGBTQ youth, and has worked tirelessly to educate people in general, and the behavioral health workforce in particular, about the unique needs of this population. By sharing their personal experience with others, Rowan's impact has been truly transformational.