Goal of the Panel:
To provide attendees an appreciation of the specialized and mental health resources available to postsecondary students in Rhode Island. This will include walking through services for unique populations (e.g., LGBTQ+, military personnel) while also examining resources available for the general population of postsecondary students.

Moderator:

Rebecca Boss
Rebecca Boss was confirmed in May 2017 as the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) as Governor Gina M. Raimondo’s appointee, after serving as Acting Director for 10 months. She has more than 20 years’ experience working directly in the addictions treatment field as both a Clinical Supervisor and Program Director. In 2004, Ms. Boss joined BHDDH and became the Administrator for Substance Abuse Treatment Services and soon became the Deputy Director of the Department.

Director Boss has a goal of ensuring that the Department is running a responsive, caring and efficient system of person-centered services. Wellness, recovery, and parity are the themes she insists on to combat stigma and to move closer to an inclusive society. Additionally, Ms. Boss and her staff work to create safe, affordable, integrated services for all Rhode Islanders, while collaborating with community partners to be champions of the people that need assistance in a timely, efficient and effective manner.
Panel Participants:

Erin Ursillo, LMHC
Erin Ursillo is the Manager of Young Adult Programs at Butler Hospital. She has been employed at Butler for 9 years, originally providing clinical care on the inpatient adult units, until the launch of the Young Adult Partial Program in October 2015, when she moved into management. This year, Erin was proud to launch two new programs for Young Adults at Butler; the True Self Intensive Outpatient Program and the College Intensive Outpatient Program. She hopes that these two new programs will offer as much a positive impact on Young Adult mental health as the Young Adult Partial Program has to date.

Jayeson Watts, LICSW
Jayeson Watts is the Trans* Health Program Director at Thundermist Health Center. For the past 10 years, he has played a key role in organizing, activism and policy change efforts for Rhode Island’s Transgender community. Jaye has used both his professional and life experience to educate thousands of Rhode Islander’s on LGBTQQ related topics with an emphasis on gender identity and expression. He has a Master’s Degree in Social Work from Rhode Island College and a Bachelor’s Degree in Music Therapy from Mansfield University of PA.
Panel Participants (continued):

Kasim J. Yarn
On February 17, 2016, Governor Gina Raimondo appointed Kasim J. Yarn to the first Director of Veterans Affairs for the State of Rhode Island. Kasim is an active-duty naval officer who retired in 2016, after 20 years of faithful service to our nation. While stationed at Naval Station Newport in 1995, the Navy selected Kasim to attend college and become an officer. In 2000, Kasim graduated from Boston University, received his commission as a naval officer and was deployed in the Mediterranean and Persian Gulf area of operations. In 2006, Kasim earned a master’s degree in National Strategic Studies at the U.S. Naval War College. Kasim and his family made Rhode Island their permanent home in 2004. The family are all die-hard Red Sox fans.

Erika Cannon, M.Ed, LMHC, QMHP
Erika Cannon is the clinical supervisor of the Healthy Transitions Program at Thrive Behavioral Health, overseeing day to day operations of the program since its inception in September of 2015. Fully embracing the Coordinated Specialty Care Model that HT is designed after; Erika is actively engaged with the participants and their families offering individual and group therapy as well as opportunities for community enrichment and engagement. Erika received her B.S. in Criminal Justice from Northeastern University, her M.Ed in Counseling from Providence College and her CAGS in Advanced Counseling from Rhode Island College. She has been employed at Thrive Behavioral Health since 2008.