

Brenda Reiss-Brennan, MS, APRN, CS

Mental Health Integration Leader
Primary Care Clinical Programs
Intermountain Health Care

Brenda Reiss-Brennan received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Niagara University, New York in 1973. In 1978 she graduated from the University of Utah with a Masters of Science in Psychosocial Nursing. Shortly after graduation she pioneered an independent nursing practice she still operates today. She is licensed by the state of Utah as an Advanced Practice Nurse in psychiatric nursing with prescriptive practice. She is also Board certified as a Child and Adolescent Clinical Nurse Specialist. In 1996 she was awarded the National Clinical Practice Award in Psychiatric Nursing from the Society for Education and Research in Mental Health Nursing. She holds a long-standing faculty position at the University of Utah College of Nursing.

Ms. Reiss-Brennan's dedication and innovation in the field of mental health nursing has evolved into a corporate business that has provided research-based consultation and family services for over 20 years. With the support of her multidisciplinary team she developed Relationship Competence Training (RCT) that is a standardized method of identifying, tracking, managing and building sustainable relationship resources for individuals within their families and communities. The RCT model promotes a collaborative process of rebuilding family relationship competencies as a primary health intervention. It defines relationship competence as the ability to identify a need and mobilize available relationship resources to develop a collaborative strategy that will result in improved health status. Relationship competence is viewed as a sustainable resource that can promote long-term family health management skills and prevent the risk and burden of mental health disability.

Ms. Reiss-Brennan's success in implementing this model as a method of integrating mental health into primary care has resulted in improved patient and family functioning, patient and provider satisfaction and the ability to track the cost benefit of integrated collaborative care.

She has published and presented both nationally and internationally. Consultation with national organizations includes: Casey Family Foundation; Intermountain Health Care; Center for Mental Health Services: US Department of Health; Bureau of Primary Care: US Department of Health; and United States Office of Surgeon General. She is currently providing leadership to Intermountain Health Care's Physician Division directing primary care clinical integration program initiatives: "Primary Mental Health Integration: An Epidemiological Investigation of the Functional Value of Integration from the Perspective of Consumer Satisfaction, Health Care Delivery Cost and Quality of Life Improvement" and the "MacArthur Respect Clinical Trial for the Treatment of Depression in Primary Care." Her consultation role with Intermountain Health Care has evolved to a full time leadership position in primary care clinical programs. As the mental health integration leader she is responsible for designing, implementing and evaluating evidence-based clinical and economic models for chronic disease. Ms. Reiss-Brennan serves as the principal investigator of a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant that was recently awarded to Intermountain Health Care. The purpose of the grant is to design and link effective clinical and economic strategies to improve the treatment of depression in primary care.

Her leadership work with Intermountain Health Care has been nationally recognized and influenced her current lead consultant role with the Surgeon Generals Office on the integration of mental health and primary care. She recently organized a meeting with the

Surgeon General and national leaders to review the "state of the art" research and practice on clinical integration efforts. A report was generated from this meeting which recommends core principles and strategic action steps necessary to implementing successful integrative services. Ms. Reiss-Brennan continues in her role as lead consultant in the development of the Surgeon General's initiative on the integration of mental health and primary care. She most recently completed an organizing meeting for a national coalition on depression in primary care. She is responsible for facilitating, among this multi-stakeholder team, the design of a public private partnership, which will develop an implementation strategy to move forward research and practice knowledge for integration. This ongoing facilitation involves the coordination among private business corporations, consumers, foundations and public agencies such as HRSA, HCFA, SAMHSA, NIMH and AHRQ under the leadership of the Surgeon General's Office.