

Mary A. Petersen, MSN, RN



Mary A. Petersen obtained both her Bachelor and Master's degree in Nursing from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is currently the Chief Operations Officer and Director of Behavioral Health Services for UnityPoint Health: Robert Young Center, an integrated Community Mental Health Center in the Midwest. In her role she has oversight for mental health and substance abuse inpatient and outpatient services in seven counties in Illinois and Iowa Quad Cities. In addition she has accountability for Robert Young Center telehealth program, primary care integrated sites, embedded therapists in school districts, crisis stabilization unit and community service programs. Her background includes positions in oncology, research, education, quality and behavioral health management. Mary led the effort for UnityPoint Health: Trinity to become the first ANCC designated bi-state Magnet hospital in the world. Leading the transformation of nursing practice through the adoption of evidence based practice and implementation of a theoretical framework that improved clinical outcomes and led to financial efficiencies. She has published articles in the Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing, Oncology Forum, American Journal of Nursing, Nursing Management and presented evidence-based practice innovations at national conferences in Washington DC, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, Baltimore, Las Vegas and the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Most recently her work with behavioral health care innovation has led to a research study exploring the connections between the Behavioral Health Synergy Model related to emergency behavioral health crisis stabilization and the impact on clinical quality as well as financial outcomes.