



## **JUNE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OF THE MONTH**

**Deborah Franko Lane, RN  
Psychiatric Nurse Case Manager  
Basin, Lovell, Greybull**

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**1. How did you choose your career path?**

While completing a clinical internship at St. Joseph Hospital Inpatient Psychiatric Unit in Pontiac, Michigan, I had a nun as a clinical instructor. She had so much enthusiasm and such a positive outlook on mental health! I decided to pursue a career in psychiatric nursing after this experience.

**2. What is your degree, training, credentials?**

I possess a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and a Master of Science in Nursing degree with a specialty in adult psychiatry. I have registered nurse licensures in Wyoming and Michigan and am officially deemed a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) by the Master's program at Wayne State University.

**3. Where did you go for your degree, training?**

I received my Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from Mercy College of Detroit and my Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

**4. How long did it take to complete your education?**

Six years; four years for the bachelor's degree and two years for the master's.

**5. Does your job require a license? If so, how often do you have to be re-licensed?**

A registered nurse licensure is required, and this license must be renewed every two years.

**6. What is your official title/credentials?**

Psychiatric Nurse Case Manager, registered nurse (RN), Master of Science in Nursing (MSN).

**7. How long have you been in practice as a Psychiatric Nurse Case Manager?**

Since 1999. Before then, I was employed as a psychiatric clinical specialist for 17 years in a general hospital in Michigan; a nursing supervisor in a nursing home in Lovell, Wyoming; an

activities director in a residential group home; coordinator of the Family-to-Family Program for the State of Wyoming; Hope House director (a drop-in center for the seriously mentally ill); and an executive director at Park County Counseling Community Mental Health Center in Park County, Wyoming.

**8. What do you like most about your occupation?**

I like working with individuals in their community and doing home visits. I provide linkage for the clients to other services in the community and transport them, if necessary, to their appointments. Do you specialize? I specialize in linking seriously mentally ill individuals with a variety of services so that they can function independently in their community. I also specialize in introducing a new project to areas and seeing it through to completion.

**9. How did you choose Basin/Greybull/Lovell as a practice site?**

While employed with the Wyoming State Hospital from 1999 to 2006, the hospital placed me in Big Horn County and loaned me to Big Horn Basin Counseling Center to assist the director, Darwin Irvine, with outreach for the center in the county. Do you like the communities? Yes, very much! Why? The County has a beautiful view of the Bighorn Mountains and the community is very eager to learn about ways to help those in their community who are mentally disabled.

**10. What do you enjoy doing in your free time?**

I enjoy motorcycling with my fiancé on our Harley-Davidson. We have tentative plans to bike to Alaska this summer.

**11. Other comments:**

I believe that in order to be successful in this career, an individual would have to possess a great deal of patience to work with the seriously and persistently mentally ill population. Also, a desire to teach others about mental illness and advocate for disabled individuals is a plus.

*If you would like to know more about becoming a  
Psychiatric Nurse Case Manager,  
contact Deb Franko Lane by e-mail at:  
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