



Eugene S. Farley, Jr. Health Policy Center
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 011020



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

The American Academy of Family Physicians selected Dr. Jack Westfall to join the Robert Graham Center for Policy Studies in Family Medicine and Primary Care as director, effective January 1, 2020. Kudos to you, Jack!

[The Trailhead Institute](#), a public health institute that serves Colorado and the Rocky Mountain West, is soliciting input relative to their strategic planning process for 2020-23. If you wish to complete their opportunities survey, [click here](#).

[3rd Annual Shkreli Awards](#), as named by the Lown Institute, is a top 10 list of the worst examples of profiteering and dysfunction in health care (named for Martin Shkreli) in 2019.

[Motivational Interviewing for Health Behavior Change](#) is a 2-day workshop being held March 20-21, 2020 on the Anschutz Medical Campus sponsored by the College of Nursing. Space is limited, register early.

The Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice invites you to call in and participate on their Global Mental Health Task Force call January 24, 2020, 11:30-12:30PM MT <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/3168350162>
#1 646 876 9923 US, meeting ID: 316 835 0162

["Tips for Mental Health and Wellness Across the Lifespan"...in 20 minutes or less](#) is the January feature of the Happy & Healthy Hour sponsored by the CU Anschutz Alumni Wellness Series. Dr. C. Neill Epperson, chair of psychiatry at the CU School of Medicine, will be the speaker January 15th, 6-8PM at the Skaff Board Room in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy building on the Anschutz Medical Campus.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[*Meals on Wheels working to combat senior loneliness*](#) is a story by Elizabeth Ruiz for *The Denver Channel* who discusses one of the biggest threats to seniors...loneliness, which is related to other issues like heart disease, anxiety, depression, weakened immune system, and even death.

[*The 5 types of mentors you need in your life*](#) is a story by Julia Fawal for *Ideas.Ted.com* with ideas for 'assembling your personal dream team.'

[*'We train them in a rural setting': Residency program brings doctors to rural Montana*](#) is a story in *Ravalli Republic* by Patrick Reilly about the training program being developed in Western Montana.

[*Well Being Trust*](#) is at work transforming clinical practice to better treat mental health and substance use disorders. Read more here.

[*A Health Breakthrough that Depends on People, Not Drugs*](#) is a story in *Yes Magazine* by Jay Wallisraper about system stewards, people from every walk of life who improve Americans' health and well-being by tackling the deeper causes of disease and despair at the Woodhill Homes public housing complex in Cleveland...cooperation being the active ingredient.

[*How to avoid the traps that produce loneliness and isolation*](#) is an opinion piece in *The Washington Post* by Arthur C. Brooks who reports that a Cigna study found that half of Americans surveyed sometimes or always feel alone. The author suggests that the emergence of smartphone technology, promising to connect the world and end social isolation, has achieved the opposite result.

[*Peer recovery specialist offers a different type of mental health and substance use support*](#) is a story in *Newport RI* by Sandy Oxx and Jamie Lehane about a woman with lived experience who trained to work on team-based services and help clients in situations similar to her own.



POLICY EFFORTS

[*Putting Health at the Heart of National Policymaking: Learning from New Zealand*](#) is an opinion piece in *The Milbank Quarterly* newsletter by Drs. Sandro Galea and Salma M. Abdalla who write how nothing short of a wholesale change in the national health conversation is needed in the United States to rectify the decline in the health of the nation. A "health in all policies" approach has been adopted by several countries including Sweden and New

Zealand and has borne fruit.

[*What to expect from Colorado's 2020 legislative session, which starts Wednesday*](#) is an article by Blair Miller and Meghan Lopez for *The Denver Channel* who report that a public health insurance option measure is expected to be one of the most hotly-contested issues this session. Democrats are also going to try again to pass a paid family leave measure.

[*The past, present and future of nicotine addiction*](#) is a *Ted Talk* by health policy expert Mitch Zeller who details the sordid history of nicotine addiction, inviting folks to imagine a world where policy change helps stop people from becoming addicted in the first place.

[*Colorado's Primary Care Payment Reform Collaborative Recommendations: First Annual Report*](#) is the result of House Bill 19-1233 that tasked the Colorado Division of Insurance with developing a primary care and payment reform collaborative to make progress on increasing investments in high quality primary care. Dr. Stephanie Gold, a member of the Farley Center team, contributed to this initiative; as did Dr. David Keller, a Farley affiliate.

[*Morning Consult/BPC Poll: Improving America's Current Health Care System Receives Most Support of Leading Reform Plans*](#) is a post on the *Bipartisan Policy* site by Joann Donnellan who reports that a new national poll showed that support for improving our nation's current health care system was almost double that of repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act or transforming to a "Medicare-for-All" single-payer system.

[*Medicare for All's missing mental health discussion*](#) is a story on *AXIOS* by Caitlin Owens who discusses how America's mental health care system is in dire need of an overhaul, yet any real specifics are largely missing from the 2020 debate about health care...something Ben Miller has been tweeting about non-stop.

[*The Financial Cost of Ignoring Mental Health in the Workplace*](#) is a story in *Forbes* by Emil Vasilev that discusses findings from a 2018 AHA study that reported how companies lose \$17,241 annually in incremental healthcare and productivity costs for each person with major depressive disorder. The author talks about how practical ways to promote good mental health practices and tools for recognition and early identification of mental health issues that can impact business performance.

[*It Looks Like Health Insurance, but It's Not. 'Just Trust God,' Buyers Are Told.*](#) Is a disturbing story by Reed Abelson in *The New York Times* about how a million Americans struggling to cope with the rising cost of health insurance have joined "Christian health care sharing organizations." These non-profit groups advise members "there is no coverage, no guarantee of payment, and to just trust God."



RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

[*Unraveling the Complexity in the Design and Implementation of Bundled Payments: A Scoping Review of Key Elements from a Payer's Perspective*](#) is an article posted on *The Milbank Quarterly* by Sander Steenhuis and colleagues about their study designed to identify and structure the key elements in the design and implementation of bundled payment contracts.

[*Trial: Camden 'Hotspotting' Program Not Enough to Help Superutilizers*](#) is a story in *Med Page Today* by Nicole Lou who reports on the famous 'hotspotting' pilot program in Camden, NJ, that failed to reduce readmissions in a randomized study of "superutilizers" with unusually high healthcare use and costs.

[*Views of Rural U.S. Adults about Health and Economic Concerns*](#) is an article in *JAMA Network* by Dr. Mary G. Findling and colleagues who surveyed adults living in rural America and found that opioid or other drug addiction or abuse and economic concerns were considered to be the most serious problems facing their communities.

[*Moving to a Learning Measurement System*](#) is a posting on the *Health Affairs Blog* by Somava Stout, Christine Petrin and Karen DeSalvo who discuss that a learning health system (as termed by AHRQ) is a paradigm shift that has not yet been accompanied by a similar shift in our approach to measuring success. A process used for the development of the Well Being in the Nation Measures offers insight into what a learning measuring system could look like.

[*Medicaid Expansion Slowed Rates of Health Decline for Low-Income Adults in Southern States*](#) is a research article in *Health Affairs* by John A. Graves and colleagues who analyzed survey and vital status data from the 12-state Southern Community Cohort Study of nonelderly adults with low-income and then compared changes in self-reported health from those in four expansion states with those in eight non-expansion states.

[*Opioid Use by Teens a Red Flag for Other Dangers*](#) is an article in *Doctors Lounge* by Amy Norton about a recent government study of more than 14,000 U.S. high school students. The key takeaway for physicians and parents is that opioid use and other risky behaviors commonly go hand-in-hand.

[*Raising the minimum wage by \\$1 could have prevented thousands of suicides, study finds*](#) is a story by Scripps National published on *The Denver Channel* site about a new study that is making a strong connection between financial policy and mental health...suggesting that raising a state's minimum wage

might prevent suicides.

[*Thousands of LA jail inmates should receive community mental health support*](#)

a story in *Medical News Today* by Dr. Maria Cohut, discusses a report that found more than half of the people with mental health conditions currently confined in LA county jails would benefit from mental health treatment in specialized community centers instead of incarceration.



[*Socially Vulnerable Older Adults & Medical-Legal Partnership*](#) is a report from earlier this year by Dr. Elizabeth Tobin Tyler for the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership about the justice gap and unmet civil legal needs of older adults.

[*The Promises and Perils of Medical Legal Partnerships*](#) is a symposium summary from last year at Northeastern University School of Law that discusses the ways medical-legal partnerships have improved quality and efficiency of care as well as some of the perils.

[*Hope for the Homeless*](#) is a posting on the Georgia State Law Clinical Programs blog by Laura Trejo discusses the harm to children experiencing homelessness and suggests that MLPs can aid these children and their families and provide hope.



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