



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 012420



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[*Get the Medications Right: Innovations in Team-based Care*](#) is a webinar sponsored by the Bipartisan Policy Center and the GTMRx Institute February 6, 10:30a-12:30p MST. This event will feature business, policy and health care leaders at the forefront of delivery and payment models that support comprehensive medication management services.

[*At the Table*](#) is the governor's Behavioral Health Task Force newsletter with updates from the committee work going on to create a system that works for all Coloradans. The Farley Health Policy Center is facilitating this task force work.

[*New CLOUD Library Offers Curated Opioid Use Resources*](#) is a post on the *Milbank Memorial Fund Blog* by Allison Leof about the launch of the CLOUD (Curated Library about Opioid Use for Decision-makers) that was built to provide a centralized place for actionable, evidence-based resources for anyone working on issues related to the opioid crisis. Partners include the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices and the Milbank Memorial Fund.

[*Levitt Distinguished Speaker Series presents Dr. Stephen Hwang, February 19, 2020*](#). Dr. Hwang is director of the Centre for Urban Health Solutions at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto. His noon presentation will be: "Creating Urban Solutions: Promises and Perils. Join us.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[*Reaching out: How caring letters help in suicide prevention*](#) is a story covered by *CBS News Sunday Morning* about a man (Kevin Hines), who at 19, jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge (he had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder at

17), and he's now 38. His interview with Lee Cowan talks of his inability to "reach out" though he had a profound need for someone to "reach in." Also brought to the forefront was research done by Dr. Jerry Motto, a WW II veteran, about the impact of connection through letters and suicide prevention.

[*Pain doesn't stigmatize people. We do that to each other*](#) is an opinion piece by Daniel S. Goldberg in *Stat* who talks about how stigma is fundamentally social...how people stigmatize other people. The root causes of stigma are structural.

[*How Philly plans to combat the nation's worst big-city opioid crisis in 2020*](#) is a story in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* by Aubrey Whelan of the creativity being employed to reach those with addictions.

[*'We Can't Have All Our Artists Die': How the Music Industry Is Fighting the Mental-Health Crisis*](#) is a story in *Rolling Stone* by Nicole Frehsee about a new wave of initiatives and support for the industry to help those with addictions and mental illness.

[*What young people can teach world leaders about mental health in 2020*](#) is a story on the *World Economic Forum* by Naeem Dalal and Jazz Thornton who report on the annual meeting of this group and how the movement to tackle this crisis gained momentum in 2019 with young people from all over the world leading the way.



[*Our best weapons against cancer are not magic bullets*](#) is a story by Vinay Prasad in *Nature* about how better health and social policy would save more lives than sophisticated drugs.

[*New Colorado Behavioral Health Task Force to Focus on Patient Needs*](#) is an interview with Robert Werthwein, director of Colorado Office of Behavioral Health and task force subcommittee co-chair with Stephanie Daniel for *KUNC* to learn more about the state assessment and strategic plan.

[*How integrated behavioral health can transform practices*](#) is a story posted on the AMA website by Timothy M. Smith about two organizations that have successfully piloted integrated behavioral health services and who share their insights on the benefits and obstacles.

[*Task force aims to reduce deaths by suicide*](#) is a story in *The Gazette* by Debbie Kelley about how Colorado aims to demonstrate a measurable reduction in deaths by suicide...20% by 2024 according to Sarah Brummett, director of the Colorado Office of Suicide Prevention.

[*HHS forgets to renew Trump's opioid emergency declaration*](#) is a story on *Politico* by Dan Diamond who reports that for nine days the nation's opioid crisis was no longer considered a "public health emergency" after the Trump administration failed to renew a two-year-old declaration that expired last week.

[*The Global Mental Health Crisis Requires a Worldwide Investment, Advocates Say on TIME Davos Panel*](#) is an article on *TIME* by Justin Worland who reports from Davos, Switzerland that Elisha London, founder and CEO of United for Global Mental Health called for \$1 billion in spending on mental health programs worldwide because this problem is worsening and it can't wait.

[*Colorado attorney general appoints opioid response chief*](#) is a story in *The Gazette* by Michael Karlik about how AG Phil Weiser has appointed former Thornton Mayor Heidi Williams to be his office's director of opioid response. She will be in charge of a new Opioid Abuse Impact Team and coordinate community outreach.

[*Most money spent in the child welfare system comes after kids are in foster care.*](#) is a story in the *Colorado Sun* by Jennifer Brown about a multi-county, privately funded project that aims to flip the system to prevent kids from needing services in the first place.



[*How the Affordable Care Act Has Narrowed Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Access to Health Care*](#) is an article on *The Commonwealth Fund* site by Jesse C. Baumgartner and colleagues who studied the degree to which racial and ethnic differences have narrowed since the ACA went into effect. Their hope is that their findings will provide a guide to policymakers as they consider options for moving the nation closer to a more equitable, higher-performing health care system.

[*Medicaid Support for Stable Housing May Reduce Avoidable Health Care Use and Spending*](#) is an article in *The Milbank Quarterly* by Joel C. Cantor and colleagues who indicate that a large group of high-need Medicaid beneficiaries could benefit from tenancy support services (TSS), and Medicaid funding for TSS could reduce avoidable Medicaid Utilization and spending.

[*Medicaid Income Eligibility Limits for Parent in Non-Expansion States Much Lower than ACA Limit*](#) is a chart on the Kaiser Family Foundation site that shows how much variability there is among non-expansion states of the income levels required for parents to qualify.

[*Opioid Use Disorder: Barriers to Medicaid Beneficiaries' Access to Treatment Medications*](#) reports on the findings of a U.S. Government Accountability Office study about MAT...coverage, authorization requirements, distribution, federal waivers, and its recommendations.

[*Buttigieg's health care plan would save money while Warren's and Sanders' plans would cost trillions, analysis finds*](#) is a posting on *Yahoo Finance* by Adriana Belmonte that describes a new analysis from the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget that considered the plans put forward by Buttigieg, Warren and Sanders; they found that while each proposal would reduce the number of uninsured Americans, the least costly would be



MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[*Lawyers and doctors are teaming up to provide better health care – and legal aid – to Michiganders*](#) is a posting on *Second Wave Media* by Estelle Sloomaker, part of a series examining integrated care and its potential to improve the health of people in Michigan, made possible with funding from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund.

[*The Dream Partnership*](#) aims to establish a medical-legal partnership between the Homeless Persons Representation Project and Health Care for the Homeless to promote economic stability and help end homelessness in Baltimore. Gabriela Sevilla will implement this initiative, a person whose family struggled with housing insecurity themselves.

[*UR Law School Awarded \\$25,000 Grant from Regirer Foundation to Provide Pro Bono Legal Services to Low-Income Seniors*](#) is a story on the University of Richmond website about a gift to the Richmond School of Law and the Richmond Health and Wellness Program at VCU in support of an MLP that will provide services to about 400 residents at an affordable housing unit for seniors or persons with disabilities living on or below the poverty line.



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