



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

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 020720



## NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

The Farley Center is delighted to announce that two new members are joining the team. Susan Mathieu, MPP, formerly program design manager with the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing is the center's Medicaid director; and Lauren Hughes, MD, MPH, MSc, formerly deputy secretary for health innovation for the Pennsylvania Department of Health, will be the center's state policy director come mid-February.

Last month Dr. Sandro Galea, Dean and Robert A. Knox Professor at Boston University School of Public Health, was the Distinguished Levitt Lecturer here on the Anschutz Medical Campus. For anyone interested in seeing/hearing his fabulous presentation, *Guns, Opioids and Obesity: A Population Health Science Lens on Three Contemporary Epidemics*, [click here](#).



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[\*Communities Win: A Community Guide for Dialogue and Action\*](#) is a resource designed by Community Initiatives and Institute for People, Place and Possibility for Well Being in the Nation (WIN) Network funded by the Well Being Trust to help local leaders, as stewards, work together with other to transform their community systems and expand opportunities for all.

[\*'Lock to Live' Offers Online Tool for Those in Crisis\*](#) is a story by Makenzie O'Keefe for *CBS Denver* about a free resource created by researchers and clinicians at the University of Colorado Anschutz intended to help suicidal adults, family and friends make decisions about reducing access to harm.

[\*Attracting the next generation of physicians to rural medicine\*](#) is a story on the *AAMC website* by Peter Jaret who writes about how medical schools and

teaching hospitals are stepping up to attract and train future physicians to practice in some of the most remote and desperate regions.



## POLICY EFFORTS

[\*We've responded to the substance misuse crisis as if it's only about opioids\*](#) is an opinion piece on *The Hill* by John Auerbach and Ben Miller who point out that the United States focuses on 'the latest' problem area without addressing underlying conditions. As important as treatment is, it must be paired with support for prevention.

[\*Report outlines integrated vision for VT mental health care system\*](#) is a story by Cat Viglienzoni for *WCAX3* talks about a new vision (Vision 2030) for Vermont's mental health system that aims to ensure that people get the care they need. When asked what they need, Vermonters responded... timely access, focus on kids, and go upstream to intervene early.

[\*Bill mandating Colorado insurers cover annual mental health exams advances\*](#) is a story in *The Gazette* by Ernest Luning, Colorado Politics, about a bill put forward by Rep. Dafna Michaelson Jenet in hopes it leads to a complete shift in the way we take care of our behavioral health care needs.

[\*Trump's Claim He 'Saved' Preexisting Conditions 'Part Fantasy, Part Delusion'\*](#) is a politifact healthcheck on *Kaiser Health News* by Shefali Luthra that has no factual basis and flies in the face of his ongoing policy efforts.

[\*More Than 500 Oregon Health Leaders Declare Climate Change a Public Health Emergency\*](#) is a story on *OPB* by Monica Samayoa about how the OR Public Health Association and 40 other health organizations are calling on the governor and state lawmakers to move the state closer to meeting its climate goals by acting now.

[\*Mental health care without an appointment? Hospitals are pushed to improve access\*](#) is a story in *The Patriot Ledger* by Anastasia E. Lennon about how Governor Baker (MA) proposed legislation to require certain providers to increase their combined spending on behavioral health and primary care by 30% over the next three years without increasing overall spending to force everybody to get out of doing what they've always done.



## RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

[\*New National Data Present a Mixed Picture: Some Drug Overdoses Down but Others Are Up, and Suicides Rates Are Increasing\*](#) is a news release on the Well Being Trust website that provides key findings from the NCHS report.

[\*"Here. Not There": Rebalancing Health Systems Toward Primary Care\*](#) is a post

on the *Milbank Memorial Fund President's Blog* by Christopher F. Koller, who calls out Colorado's commissioned Primary Care Payment Reform Collaborative report that indicates the primary care spend rate has essentially remained flat for three years. A month later HCPF reported that hospital profits have increased by more than 280%, 2009-2018. President Koller writes that state health policymakers in Colorado are using public accountability and other levers to rebalance the health system away from hospitals and toward primary care.

[\*Key Facts about the Uninsured Population\*](#) is an issue brief on the *Kaiser Family Foundation* site by Jennifer Tolbert and colleagues who describe how coverage has changed in recent years, examines the characteristics of the uninsured population, and summarizes the access and financial implications of not having coverage.

[\*How ACOs are Integrating Social Determinants of Health in Practice\*](#) is a story on *Patient Engagement HIT* by Sara Heath about a new report that indicates data, community partnership and funding are challenging ACOs addressing the social determinant of health. The researchers maintained that ACOs are still well-positioned to lead this charge.

[\*Another Example of How Health Care Disparities Kill\*](#) is a story in *Scientific American* by Annabelle Santos Volgman about an analysis of life expectancy gaps by NYU conducted in the 500 largest U.S. cities found that Chicago has a gap of 30 years with Washington DC, NYC, New Orleans and Buffalo not far behind.

[\*Red and Blue America see eye-to-eye on one issue: The nation's health care system needs fixing\*](#) is a story in *USA Today* by Jayne O'Donnell about new survey results that shows when you remove the 'buzz words' from the policies, voters are not so far apart in their positions...nearly everyone wants to see our health system improved.

[\*Addiction and mental health vs. physical health: Widening disparities in network use and provider reimbursement\*](#) is a Milliman report from November is an update to their December 2017 report that analyzed specific non-quantitative treatment limitations associated with behavioral healthcare services. This one includes claims for 2016-17 as well as details of spending on mental health and substance use treatment of a percentage of total healthcare spending.



[\*UVA Equity Center\*](#) is a unique partnership in Charlottesville led by Dr. Dayna Matthew, Farley Center Steering Committee member, determined to redress 400 years of racial and socioeconomic inequality by building better relationships between the University of Virginia and the Charlottesville community.

[\*Legal Aid Justice Center\*](#) is a website for the Virginia MLP that began as a "holistic collaboration" among the Children's Hospital there, the law school, and

the Legal Aid Justice Center.

[\*A Medical-Legal Partnership as a Component of a Palliative Care Model\*](#) is an article from a few years back in the *Journal of Palliative Medicine* by Kerry J. Rodabaugh and colleagues about a study designed to retrospectively review the experience of one MLP and quantify the benefits of the program for both patients and the host health care institution.

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