



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

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 052220



## NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

The results from the [Green Center's Series 10 Quick COVID-19 survey](#) are now available, n=700+ clinician respondents. After 2.5 months, primary care practices are beginning to report some modest improvements. However, the overall picture remains tenuous with 40% continuing to report laid off or furloughed staff. For those of you who wish to contribute to this week's survey (due May 26th), you can access the form [here](#). The survey focuses questions on financial loss and sustainability. Responses will be shared with senior CMS and HHS staff and leaders.

[\*Mental Health Struggles Lead to a PhD in Caring Science\*](#) is a story on the CU College of Nursing website by Dana Brandorff about a new PhD offering...that in Caring Science, and its first graduate of the program.

Well Being Trust webinar: [\*Media's Perspective on Mental Health During COVID-19\*](#) May 27<sup>th</sup>, 11AM MT will be a discussion among Ben Miller and media experts and frontline folks about how COVID-19's mental health impacts are being covered by the media and what it means for our communities.

[\*Regents vote to hold tuition, compensation flat\*](#) is an article on *CU Connections* that reports that the University of Colorado Board of Regents voted to hold tuition flat for resident undergraduates across the system, as well as for most non-resident students. They also voted against increases for faculty and staff.

[\*Frontline hero: The Rocky Mountain GP who healed America\*](#) is a story by Sean O'Hagan for *The Guardian* about the tireless efforts of Dr. Ernest Ceriani, general practitioner in Kremmling, CO, in the 1940s; which highlights the beauty of photojournalism, among many other things.

[\*Inseparable\*](#) is a growing coalition (new, novel organization) that is taking on the good fight for mental health through policy and advocacy. Our friend and colleague, Dr. Ben Miller, is a member of the advisory board.

[\*Behavioral Health Integration Project Call for Comments: April 2020\*](#) is a post

on *Bipartisan Policy Center* in which the Behavioral Health Integration Task Force is inviting comments for solutions that support improving the bi-directional integration of primary care and behavioral health care.

A blue banner featuring a row of stylized human figures in various colors (green, purple, blue) of different heights, representing a diverse community. Below the figures, the text "COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION" is written in white, uppercase letters.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[\*Community Health Workers: Developing Standards to Support these Frontline Workers during the Pandemic and Beyond\*](#) is a post on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* blog by Shrey A. Kangovi and Margaret O’Kane about the value of community workers, a workforce of ~50,000 people across the United States, typically employed by community organizations, health systems and public health departments.

[\*ColoradoSPH Graduate Sets Sights on Ending Human Trafficking\*](#) is a story on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus site by Blair Illsley about how Jessica Stubblefield’s military training and world travel combined with leadership skills and a passion for human rights makes her a likely success to end human trafficking.

[\*Don’t Rebuild the Health System, Reorient It\*](#) is a blog post by Christopher Koller, President of the Milbank Memorial Fund, who recommends that policy makers and insurers use their leverage to push for change to reorient the health care system.

[\*Coronavirus lays bare inequities in K-12 education\*](#) is a story on *CU Boulder Today* by Daniel Strain that calls out how even more critical it is to lead and be creative about ways to invest in our schools, communities and states.

[\*“Where are the heart attacks” Denver doctors worry people are waiting too long for help because of coronavirus fears\*](#) is a story in *The Denver Post* by Meg Wingerter about how Denver-area hospitals report ER visits down 30-50% in April amid the pandemic compared to the same month last year.

[\*Colorado frontline health workers share personal struggles with COVID-19\*](#) is a Fox 31 story by Kevin Torres who reports on the personal stories of two frontline medical workers who participated in a COVID-19 series hosted by the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

A blue banner featuring a stylized illustration of the Colorado State Capitol dome in the center, with clouds on either side. Below the illustration, the text "POLICY EFFORTS" is written in white, uppercase letters.

## POLICY EFFORTS

[\*Medicaid Clinics and Doctors Have Bene Last in Line for COVID-19 Relief Funding\*](#) is an NPR story by Julie Rovner that calls out how money that was intended to compensate health care providers for the extra costs associated with caring for COVID-19 patients and for the revenue not coming in due to the interruption. But more than half that money has been allocated by the DHHS,

and most so far has gone to hospitals, doctors and other facilities that serve Medicare patients.

[\*#HowAreYouReally?\*](#) Is a call to action from Ben Miller, chief strategy officer for Well Being Trust, to Congress to increase funding for mental health.

[\*Protecting Our Economy and Health in a Pandemic\*](#) is a commentary in *Real Clear Politics* by Carol Graham and Ben Miller about how COVID-19 has caused a perfect storm for the global economy, for our societies and for our health. The effects are expected to be felt for generations.

[\*The U.S. Is Building a Contact-Tracer Army\*](#) is a Huffington Post story by Wudan Yan about how as many as 180,000 contact tracers are needed, but how many states face challenges in rapidly scaling up this new workforce.

[\*Strong Social Distancing Measure in the United States Reduced the COVID-19 Growth Rate\*](#) is an article in *Health Affairs* by Charles Courtemanche and colleagues whose paper illustrates the potential danger of exponential spread in the absence of interventions, providing relevant information to strategies for restarting economic activity.



[\*Digital prosperity: How broadband can deliver health and equity to all communities\*](#) is a report posted on the Brookings site by Adie Tomer and colleagues from Brookings Metro and the National Digital Inclusion Alliance who studied the connections between broadband and health and equity.

[\*Telemedicine keeps doctors and patients connected at a safe remove\*](#) is a story in *The Washington Post* by Fran Kritz about the advances of health care in a non-face-to-face manner (phone call, email, text, video visit or video email) in the era of COVID-19. Dr. Kyle Knierim of the CU Department of Family Medicine is quoted.

[\*Moderna reports encouraging results from Phase 1 of COVID-19 vaccine trial\*](#) is a story by Alex Hider for *The Denver Channel* about promising results from a phase 1 human trial (partnership between Moderna and the NIH) for a coronavirus vaccine.

[\*Drug overdose deaths drop in U.S. as other deaths of despair rise, report finds\*](#) is a story by Kaitlin Sullivan for *NBC News* who cites a report that indicates combined deaths from alcohol, drugs and suicide in the U.S. plateaued in 2018, but troubling data suggests that deaths due to alcohol, synthetic opioids, cocaine and suicide increased, particularly among people of color.

[\*Projected Deaths of Despair from COVID-19\*](#) is a report published by the Well Being Trust and the Robert Graham Center (authors Steve Petterson, Ben Miller, and Jack Westfall) with a cautionary message to not use deaths of despair as the reason to open the country given there was so much that could

have been done about these preventable deaths prior to the pandemic. Using it now for political gain does injustice to the lives lost.

[\*Primary Care Spending in the United States, 2002-2016\*](#) is an article on *JAMA Network* by Drs. Sara Martin, Bob Phillips, and Stephen Petterson who used U.S. health care survey data to assess primary care expenditures relative to other sources of health care spending. Insufficient investment in primary care is one reason that the U.S. health care system continues to under-perform relative to other high-income countries.

[\*These NYC Neighborhoods Have the Highest Rates of Virus Deaths\*](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Michael Schwartz and Lindsey Rogers Cook who report on new data that shows death rates in each of NYC's zip codes, and underscores the deep disparities already unearthed by the outbreak

[\*The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Outpatient Visits: A Rebound Emergees\*](#) is a story on *The Commonwealth Fund* site by Ateev Mehrotra and colleagues who update previously reported data showing how the decline in number of ambulatory visits varies by the size of the provider organization.



[\*ABA groups are working to promote and increase medical-legal partnerships\*](#) is a story on the *ABA Journal* by Amanda Robert who writes about how the American Bar Association has been an early supporter in MLPs and a key partner for this endeavor.

[\*When Doctors Work with Lawyers to Improve Patients' Health\*](#) is a posting on *The Commonwealth Fund* site by Shanoor Seervai about how getting and staying healthy depends on more than medical care.



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