



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 052920



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

The results from the [Green Center's Series 11](#) Quick COVID-19 survey are now available, n=500+ clinician respondents from 48 states. Despite 38% of practices receiving some Federal financial support, the financial pressures remain acute. For those of you who wish to contribute to this week's survey (due June 1st and takes three minutes), you can access the form [here](#). The survey results will better inform our understanding of response and capacity of U.S. primary care practices to COVID-19. In the first patient survey, 2,250 participated, and 83% indicated stress at the proposition of losing their relationship with their doctor.

[ECHO Colorado](#) has kicked off a new series, Primary Care Voice: Advocacy and Innovation Leveraged (PreVAIL) led by Farley Center partner, Kyle Leggott, that will focus on changing primary care providers' frontline experiences into policy and action. These sessions will be held Tuesdays at 12:15PM MT...next will be June 2nd.

[AcademyHealth's Annual Research Meeting](#) will be offered virtually and span six days over two weeks July 28th-August 6th. Registrants will have access to all 70+ hours of content.

[Your local epidemiologist](#) is a science-driven resource for COVID-19 updates.

[169 Students Graduate from University of Colorado School of Medicine](#) is a story on 4CBS Denver about how these students took the Hippocratic Oath on Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[*“It’s really tough”: Pandemic stresses adding to postpartum depression*](#) is a story by Ruta Ulcinaite for *3NewsNow* that raises awareness about how the pandemic is adding to an already troubling condition.

[*Impacts of Mental and Emotional Health on Employee Wellbeing*](#) is a story on *The One Brief* that encourages employers to include mental and emotional health in wellbeing initiatives, and to move from reactive to preventive in nature. And customization matters.

[*It’s Not Obesity. It’s Slavery.*](#) is an opinion piece in *The New York Times* by Dr. Sabrina Strings, an associate professor of sociology at UC-Irvine, who gives her thoughts about why COVID-19 is killing so many black people.

[*A One-Time Punk Rock Guitarist Is Playing a New Tune at MIT*](#) is a story by Peter Dizikes for *SciTechDaily* who writes about Professor David Rand, a punk rock guitarist, whose academic research digs into psychology, cooperation and politics. His mantra... “let me not be bound by social norms and conventions... the punk-rock approach to social science.”

[*The full toll of COVID-19 on children’s mental health won’t be known for years*](#) is a story by Dr. Edith Bracho-Sanchez for CNN who discusses how COVID-19 is an unprecedented natural experiment in and of itself, and how the well-being of children must be a top priority as our society gets reimaged.

[*How Robin Williams’ Son Zak Is Honoring His Father with New Mental Health Organization, Inseparable*](#) is a story in *People* by Alexia Fernandez about how Zak, the oldest of Robin’s three children, has become an advocate for mental health and sits on the advisory board of Inseparable, an organization supporting policy for mental health programs.



[*COVID-Like Cough Sent Him to ER Where He Got a \\$3,278 Bill*](#) is a story by Phil Galewitz on *Kaiser Health News* about the downsides of the learning curve that both providers and insurance company’s are on related to the coronavirus and how to bill and pay for it.

[*Doctors face pay cuts, furloughs and supply shortages as coronavirus pushes primary care to the brink*](#) is a story by Spencer Kimball for CNBC that highlights how primary care physicians field more than half of all patient visits to doctors’ offices but receive less than 7% of total U.S. health care expenditures, and how the pandemic is threatening to push already tight budget into the red.

[*Wealthiest Hospitals Got Billions in Bailout for Struggling Health Providers*](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Jesse Drucker and colleagues who report how 20 large chains received more than \$5 billion in federal grants even while sitting on more than \$100 billion in cash.

[*Primary care clinicians say they need a financial lifeline*](#) is a story by Heather

Landi for *FierceHealthcare* that features findings from the Green Center/Primary Care Collaborative COVID-19 surveys and calls to action Congress and the administration to provide immediate, targeted relief to primary care to “stop the hemorrhaging and also address longer-term, system-wide financial issues that undervalue primary care.”

[*COVID-19 is battering independent physician practices. They need help now.*](#) is an opinion piece on *STAT* by Andy Slavitt and Farzad Mostashari who feel strongly that assistance needs to be targeted directly to small, independent physician practices NOW. DHHS and the Trump administration should turn most loans to practices into grants, and Congress and the administration should provide dedicated grant funding to primary care practices.

[*The COVID-19 crisis demands a transformation of our children’s mental health system*](#) is a post by Alex Briscoe, principal at California Children’s Trust on the *Kaiser Permanente Institute for Health Policy* site about how school closures and shelter-in-place orders are causing nonprofit providers of mental health services difficulty connecting with children and families in person. The last few months have seen the beginning of an unprecedented change in practices and a break with a culture of practice that has historically focused on in-person, 50-minute appointments.

[*We Need to Take Action to Address the Mental Health Crisis in this Pandemic*](#) is an issue brief in *TIME* by Antonio Guterres, the ninth Secretary-General of the United Nations, who makes a plea for all to act now to address the mental health needs associated with the pandemic to ward off enormous long-term consequences for families communities and societies.

[*Inequities Amplified by COVID-19: Opportunities for Medicaid to Address Health Disparities*](#) is a posting on the *Health Affairs Blog* by Shilpa Patel and Tricia McGinnis about how COVID-19 has illuminated the glaring inequity faced by communities of color due to a constellation of factors, and how Medicaid is uniquely situated to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and address related health disparities.



[*Treating Patients with Opioid Use Disorder in their Homes: An Emerging Treatment Model*](#) is an opinion piece on *JAMA Network* by Dr. Lori Uscher-Pines and colleagues who discuss what is contributing to the emergency of this new service, the structure of the care, and how recent federal legislation and COVID-19 may accelerate growth.

[*Impact of Coronavirus on Personal Health, Economic and Food Security, and Medicaid*](#) is an article on *Kaiser Family Foundation* by Liz Hamel and colleagues that reports findings from a tracking poll during this pandemic showing how nearly half of adults say someone in their household has postponed or skipped medical care, and that 4 in 10 adults say worry or stress related to coronavirus has had a negative impact on their mental health.

[*Bad state data hides coronavirus threat as Trump pushes reopening*](#) is a story in *Politico* by Darius Tahir and Adam Cancryn who talk about how test counts have been inflated, death tolls deflated...shifting metrics, hindering the ability to detect a surge of infections as Trump pushes the nation to reopen rapidly.

[*The Mental Health Implications of COVID-19 on Low-Income Communities and Communities of Color*](#) is a community development research brief by Laura Choi of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, about how it is vital that we consider mental health promotion as part of a comprehensive approach to equitable economic recovery.

[*How have healthcare utilization and spending changed so far during the coronavirus pandemic?*](#) Is a post on the *Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker* by Cynthia Cox and Rabah Kamal who provide a collection of charts that summarize what is known to date about how health costs and utilization have changed during the pandemic.



MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[*Digest of COVID-19 Resources for Medical-Legal Partnerships*](#) is a posting on the *National Center for Medical Legal Partnership* website that contains resources, organized by issue area, to help MLPs in their response to the health and legal needs during this pandemic.

[*Health Justice Strategies to Combat COVID-19: Protecting Vulnerable Communities During a Pandemic*](#) is a post on the *Health Affairs Blog* by Emily A. Benfer and Lindsay F. Wiley about how state and local leaders should act now to protect workers, freeze evictions and utility shut-offs; and prioritize programs that secure safe and healthy housing conditions and nutritional supports.



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