



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

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 073120



## NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

*NAPCRG 2020 Annual Meeting is going virtual.* This meeting will be a fully online, virtual experience November 20-24, 2020. Presentations will include late-breaking COVID-19 research. Registration will open in mid-August, including special pricing.

[Meeting the Mental Health Needs: Season 1: Episode 59](#) is a podcast/transcript that addresses the rising tide of mental distress, the fact that the mental health care system is stretched thin and broaching whether primary care can meet the country's needs.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[Pandemic Is Overwhelming U.S. Public Health Capacity in Many States. What Now?](#) is an NPR story by Rob Stein about how there are too many infections occurring too quickly for underfunded, understaff public health departments to effectively use testing and contact tracing. Short of a second lockdown, the U.S. won't get on top of this problem...and this time we need to get it right.

[Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf Showed Us the Way](#) is a story on *Medium* by Andrew Villegas about how this revolutionary Denver Nuggets player who sat for the national anthem in 1996...he decried how Americans and their institutions treated Black people and religious minorities. So he sat. He was called militant, suspended and fined. The hate didn't stop.

[Decriminalizing the mentally ill through empathy](#) is a CNN 20-minute video clip where Norm Ornstein and Judge Steve Leifman, the men behind 'Definition of Insanity' discuss the Miami-Dade Jail Diversion Program that saves lives and money.

[\*American Communities Experience Deaths of Despair at Uneven Rates\*](#) is a post on the *American Communities Project* by Dante Chinni about a two-year project that will explore the causes and effects of deaths of despair, as well as positive interventions that might help decrease the phenomenon, funded by The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation.

[\*Virtual Health Could Move Needle on Mental Health Crisis\*](#) is a story on 1047 Wonk FM by Jen Richer who discusses how Bill Smith, mental health advocate, is warning Capital Hill that a mental health crisis is looming, and that more funding for systems like virtual doctors visits could help curb the problem.



[\*We Can Eliminate COVID-19 if We Want To\*](#) is a post to the *Medium Coronavirus Blog* by Andy Slavitt who says the United States is always four to six weeks from being able to do what countries around the world have done... to eliminate the virus.

[\*Don't Count on Lower Premiums Despite Pandemic-Driven Boon for Insurers\*](#) is a story on *Kaiser Health News* by Bernard J. Wolfson about how in some parts of the country the onslaught of hospitalizations due to COVID didn't hit, non-COVID care collapsed, and health plans fattened their bottom lines; which won't necessarily translate into lower premiums for consumers next year.

[\*Invest in people, not punishment\*](#) is an opinion piece on *The Hill* by Reggie Moore who discusses how most funding for community safety has gone toward studying or reacting to the problem instead of preventing it; and how he'd like to see a country that is committed to preventing pain and loss instead of managing it.

[\*As mobile mental health teams work to de-escalate crises, some warn their models still rely on police partnerships\*](#) is a posting on STAT by Juliet Isselbacher who writes about an effective model in Oregon launched in 1989 that has inspired similar efforts in other cities. And how some warn that an ideal infrastructure includes a collective or participants.

[\*America's Cities Are Staggeringly Unequal\*](#) is a story in *The Atlantic* by Ronald Brownstein about new data that show how in every major metropolitan area, massive gaps still separate white people and people of color. "The rising tide of economic revival in many of the nation's largest urban centers has definitively not lifted all boats."

[\*"Go on Medi-Cal to get that": Why Californians with mental illness are dropping private insurance to get taxpayer-funded treatment\*](#) is a story on *Cal Matters* by Jocelyn Wiener who writes about the 'open secret' among those who care for people with serious mental illness. If you want someone to receive long-term mental health treatment, get him/her off your private insurance and onto the public system for low-income people.



## RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

[\*One-third of outpatients with COVID-19 are unwell weeks later\*](#) is a story in *The Hospitalist* by Marcia Frellick writes about MMWR survey results from the CDC about wellness in symptomatic adults weeks after testing positive for SARS-CoV-2.

[\*Effective mentorship doesn't have to be about seniority\*](#) is a story in *The Ladders* by John Anderer about a new study out of the University of Colorado in which researchers found that peer mentorships are oftentimes more accessible, more helpful, and more effective than traditional mentor-mentee relationships.

[\*New COVID-19 test returns results in 45 minutes, without nasal swab\*](#) is a story in *CU Boulder Today* by Lisa Marshall who reports on how researchers at the BioFrontiers Institute at CU Boulder have developed a rapid, saliva-based COVID-19 test that changes colors when it is positive. Efforts are under way to conduct further validation tests and seek regulatory approval.

[\*The Green Center's Quick COVID-19 Survey, Series 17 Executive Summary\*](#) reflects how surveyed clinicians' stress level is faring. 4 of 5 surveyed report strain is worse now than in March with 50% saying they are just getting used to the poor conditions.

[\*It's Time to Invest in Better Health and Well-Being for Teens\*](#) is an article in *Health Affairs* by Ben Miller and Denise Dougherty about how we ignore or discount the adolescent years too often and how the teen years are an opportunity for early intervention. Now is the time to invest in the well-being of teens.

[\*Mental Health Care in the Primary Care Setting\*](#) is an article Dr. Frank deGruy wrote more than 20 years ago about how mental health and physical health are inseparable and that any attempts to separate the two leads to inferior care--a concept that has been substantiated over the years and holds true more than ever.

[\*Data Analysis: COVID-19 Is Filling Up Hospitals in Small Cities\*](#) is an NPR story by Sean McMinn and colleagues about how disparities in hospital capacity are causing problems for those not equipped to deal with the recent surge of the pandemic.

[\*To improve students' mental health, Yale study finds, teach them to breathe\*](#) is a story in the *Yale News* by Brita Belli about study findings that indicate college students who learn specific techniques for managing stress and anxiety, improve their well-being across a range of measures, leading to better mental health.



## MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[\*The Impact of the UTHHealth Medical Legal Partnership on Utilization and Health Harming Legal Needs\*](#) is an article on the *Texas Academy of Family Physicians* site by Dr. Winston Liaw and colleagues about how a vast body of literature connects social determinants of health to undesirable health outcomes leading to calls for tighter integration between public health and family medicine. This study was designed to assess whether access to an MLP was associated with lower urgent care, ED, and hospital visits compared to individuals without access.

[\*Integration of Care and Services in Practice: Medical-Legal Partnerships\*](#) is a posting on the *Philadelphia Health Partnership* site that includes voices from the field about how MLPs contribute to advancing health equity and addressing social determinants of health?

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