FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

A Road Map to Reset the Nation's Approach to the Pandemic includes nine evidence-based, practical recommendations from the AAMC as a way forward to handling the pandemic. Also, here you can read an opinion piece from Dr. David J. Skorton, president and CEO of the AAMC about the road map and the importance of heading in a new direction.

In the event you haven't had a chance to read the letter to us all from John Lewis printed in the New York Times after his death, click here. In it, he reminds us that "Voting and participating in the democratic process are key. The vote is the most powerful nonviolent change agent you have in a democratic society."

Grantee Perception Report is a report produced by the Colorado Health Foundation and published February 2020 that encompasses survey responses from grantees. Here you can read a blog post from Amy Latham about how this report will improve their philanthropy practice.

COVID-19: A Catalyst for Integrating Youth Behavioral Health Care Access Settings is a virtual conversation August 13th at noon MT presented by experts from Well Being Trust and partners to discuss innovations in youth behavioral health.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

Primary care doctors are well-trained to treat common mental health conditions is a post on _The Medical Care Blog_ by a team from the Farley Health Policy and Robert Graham Centers about how, in this time of stress, people can absolutely rely on primary care doctors for help.

[5 ways businesses can prevent a costly mental health crisis](#) is a commentary for *CNN Business* by Dr. Frank deGruy and colleagues who call out a "sprawling" mental health crisis among the U.S. workforce and recommend a multi-faceted approach to address these problems among their employees.

[Thriving Together: A Springboard for Equitable Recovery & Resilience in Communities Across America](#) is a website, *thriving.us,* about a movement that was launched this spring to advance well-being and justice in the United States.

[Psychological first aid in emergencies training for frontline staff and volunteers](#) is a press release on *gov.uk* about how staff and volunteers at the forefront of the national coronavirus response across England will be able to access a new [Psychological First Aid training course](#) free of charge.

[Barbers get mental health training to aid Black communities](#) is a story in *The News & Observer* by Andrew J. Yawn who writes about how the barber's chair may be the new therapy couch for parts of the South where mental health care is in short supply.

POLICY EFFORTS

[Executive Order on Improving Rural Health and Tele-health Access](#) was signed by President Trump this week.

[How the Pandemic Defeated America](#) is a story in *The Atlantic* by Ed Young that discusses how a virus has brought the world's most powerful country to its knees. FYI, The Atlantic is making vital coverage of the coronavirus available to all readers. [Find the collection here](#).

[How Private Insurers Are Using Telehealth to Respond to the Pandemic](#) is an issue brief on access and affordability by Julie Hudman and colleagues posted on *Health System Tracker.* The authors reviewed a summary of private insurers' responses to the pandemic, and systematically collected data from the summary and merged it onto enrollment data to better understand how private health insurers are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Tester, Moran Introduce Landmark Veterans Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Bill](#) is a press release posted on the *U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs* site about how this bipartisan legislation aims to better connect more veterans with the mental health care they need and earned.

[We Must Change How Our Criminal Justice System Treats People with Mental Illness](#) is a story in *Time* by Dr. Christine Montross, author of *Waiting for an Echo: The Madness of American Incarceration,* who calls us to action…as we rethink law enforcement, we must examine how both our policing and correctional system exacerbate the crisis of mental health in America*.

[Major U.S. Health Insurers Report Big Profits, Benefiting from the Pandemic](#) is

a story in *The New York Times* by Reed Abelson who suggests that as the nation's leading health insurers are experiencing an embarrassment of profits, consumers are probably entitled to millions of dollars in rebates under Obamacare rules that cap companies' profits.

[We are failing with COVID, let's not fail on mental health](#) is a commentary by Ben Miller published on *The Hill* that calls out hopeful innovations and leadership at the local level, and calls to action all others.

[Boston ER Doctor Helps Patients Register to Vote](#) is an NPR interview with Dr. Alister Martin, an ER doctor at Massachusetts General and the man behind a program called VotER. Dr. Martin goes on to say that COVID-19 has turned voting into a public health issue.

RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

[COVID-19 Hospital Data System that Bypasses CDC Plagued by Delays, Inaccuracies](#) is a story by Pien Huang and Selena Simmons-Duffin for WAMU about how the Trump administration abruptly required hospitals to stop reporting COVID data to CDC and use a new system by a public data hub. Two weeks in, they system is rife with inconsistencies and errors, and the promised improvements in the data have yet to materialize.

[Mental Health and Substance Use State Fact Sheets](#) is a posting on the Kaiser Family Foundation site about findings from a national analysis that examines national and state-level data on mental health both before and during the pandemic.

[Health Care Workers of Color Nearly Twice as Likely as Whites to Get COVID-19](#) is a story on *Kaiser Health News* by Christina Jewett about a new study from Harvard Medical School that further highlights the problem of structural racism, this time reflected in the front-line roles and personal protective equipment provided to people of color.

[COVID-19 Might Lead to a 'Mental Health Pandemic'](#) is a *Forbes* story by Jessica Gold who writes about a new study that assessed the mental health of people one month after they presented to the emergency room with COVID-19 and then were either treated in the hospital or at home. 55% were found to have at least one psychiatric disorder.

[Reopening Schools and the Government Response](#) is a post on the *Kaiser Family Foundation* site by Liz Hamel and colleagues who provide key findings from the latest KFF Health Tracking Poll, as well as a view on the state of the pandemic and government response.

[Do Americans Face Greater Mental Health and Economic Consequences from COVID-19? Comparing the U.S. with other High-Income Countries](#) is a story on *The Commonwealth Fund* site by Reginald D. Williams and colleagues who discuss findings from a survey of 8,259 adults about their mental health, economic security, and levels of public trust in national leaders' response to the

pandemic.

[Disaster psychiatry and homelessness: Creating a mental health COVID-19 response](#) is a commentary in *The Lancet* by Samuel Dotson and colleagues who describe a new system of care (1,000-bed facility at the Boston Hope Field Hospital for patients testing positive for COVID-19). 500 of the 1,000 beds were set aside for homeless patients.

[Happiness among Americans dips to five-decade low](#) is a posting on the *University of Chicago News* site about a NORC survey that reflects Americans' outlook and emotional health compared to nearly 50 years of trends in public opinion.

MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[Bringing Law and Medicine Together to Help Rural Patients](#) is a story in *The Rural Monitor* by Allee Mead who stresses how MLPs are an effective way to address health-harming needs in rural communities.

[Law and medical students join for COVID-19 co-learning exercise](#) is a story on the *Penn State News* about how students at Penn State working with the Dickinson Law's MLP clinic focus on identifying and addressing the socio-legal causes of poor health to prevent negative legal, financial and health consequences for their clients.

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