FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 091319

NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

UCHealth dedicates more than $100 million for behavioral health care is a posting on the CU Anschutz website about how this funding infusion is intended to build out its intensive outpatient, preventive and telehealth services to allow the system to better serve more individuals in Colorado, the Rocky Mountain region and beyond.

CU Boulder, Ball Introduce Game-Changing Aluminum Cup at Folsom Field is a story on the CU Boulder website about how Ball Corporation and CU Boulder partnered to introduce a recyclable aluminum cup to collegiate football fans at CU's Folsom Field during the 2019 football season to reduce plastic use in the stadium. The cup debuted during the CU Buff's opener against the Nebraska Cornhuskers last weekend.

Behavioral Health Provider Integrated Services, Southwest Colorado Mental Health Clinic job opening in Cortez, CO – 50 minutes from Durango. For more information, click here.

Mass casualties to substance abuse: Trauma nursing book tackles new-world issues is a post by Debra Melani on the *CU College of Nursing* website about a book co-edited by CU College of Nursing trauma expert Mary Beth Flynn Makic that addresses issues that emergency and hospital workers face daily.

Schumann: Music Mood Swings and Madness is a presentation and performance by Dr. Richard Kogan, award-winning pianist and professor of psychiatry, Weill Cornell Music and Medicine Program, September 19, 2019, 7PM at AMC, Ed 2 South Auditorium, 1321 E. 17th Avenue, Aurora.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

A Vision of Housing Security, Health and Opportunity is a joint report by the

Health Equity Advocacy Cohort, The Colorado Trust, and Colorado Health Institute that discusses how the rapid increase in Colorado housing prices is straining many households and affecting health and well-being.

Your Healthy Family: Biggest reasons experts believe so many teens vape is a story by KOAA News about how kids need more education about the harm of vaping…85-90% know that smoking traditional cigarettes is risky but fewer than 50% know that smoking electronic cigarettes is risky.

A holistic approach to the health challenges of tomorrow is a story in *CU Denver News* about a new path for future leaders developed by CU Denver's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, "Integrated Health Studies Track" intended to combine science and health with such fields as communication, sociology, humanities, and more.

The future (and present) of rural health care is telehealth is a *3 News Now, Omaha* story by Jeff Van Sant and Aaron Hegarty talks about how in 2017, 76% of hospitals used telemedicine, up from 35% in 2010. Dr. Brandon Essink, interviewed in this article, says to expect remote surgeries within five years.

Untreated Hearing Loss Linked to Loneliness and Isolation for Seniors is an NPR story by Rochelle Sharpe about how the decline of hearing can intensify the feeling of loneliness (associated with a number of medical problems), and how Medicare treats hearing loss as a normal part of aging, not a medical problem.

Suicides of two mental health advocates in a week serve as a grim reminder is an NBC News story by Elizabeth Clark about two recent deaths by suicide, both men were advocates of mental health.

Mind over natter: the small town with a happiness plan is a story in *The Guardian* by Steve Morgan about how three people…a minister, a pub landlord, and a mayor…who have sparked a network of spontaneous activity in the town of St. Ives, to raise awareness for and improve the mental health of the community. [natter: chatter non-stop).

Health Professionals Should Work Together on Policy is an article in *Scientific American* by Dhruv Khullar and Dave A. Chokshi who talk about how the teamwork practiced hospitals and clinics on behalf of patients is needed on a larger scale to move the dial on policy change.

POLICY EFFORTS

2019 State Health Policy Progress: Addressing Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders is a United States of Care blog post by Sophie Lelias that reviews state legislation related to improving access to mental and behavioral health care.

Rhode Island: A Most-Improved State in Health Performance is a blog post on

the Milbank Memorial Fund site by Michelle Alletto and Marie Ganim who discuss how the Commonwealth Fund Scorecard on State Health System Performance has helped Rhode Island leaders identify where their health care policies are on track and where they need improving, and the actions taken by policy makers to drive progress.

Five questions for William B. Allen is a story in *CU Connections* by Cynthia Pasquale who interviewed William B. Allen, visiting scholar and emeritus dean at James Madison College and emeritus professor of political philosophy at Michigan State University and former chair, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and more that presents impressive insights at this moment in time.

Measurement for Value-based Payment: Harnessing Patient-Centered Outcomes to Define Quality is a white paper from Duke's Margolis Center for Health Policy, an effort to develop a vision and strategy for the adoption of patient-centered outcome measure to help catalyze the implementation of them.

Which Health Policies Actually Work? We Rarely Find Out is a *New York Times* story by Austin Frakt about how little rigorous research is done on programs like Medicaid and Medicare…< 0.1% of total spending on U.S. health care is devoted to evaluating health policies.

Social determinants of health – health care isn't just bugs and bacteria is an opinion piece by Brian C. Castrucci, Dr. Jonathan Fielding and John Auerbach about how the bipartisan bill, Social Determinants Accelerator Act introduced this summer, is a good first step toward this end addressing the social determinants of health; but the authors make a plea to work on the impacts of larger, systemic problems like multigenerational poverty, institutional racism and historic trauma.

RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

Sustaining Families Affected by Addiction: "Eventually We Arrive at Inequity" is a blog post from Christopher F. Koller, President, Millbank Memorial Fund, who reports on a recent meeting of government officials and content experts convened to share evidence and experiences to sustain families impacted by addiction, and how addressing inequity is a must to make this happen.

Denver-area hospitals made a record $2 billion in profits in 2018, according to a new report is a *Colorado Sun* story by John Ingold about study results and reports that show the profitability of Colorado hospitals in 2018, on the back of patient care. The reporter states that a HCPF report concluded that hospitals could have saved patients as much as $11.5 billion over a nine-year period if they had lowered their margins and better controlled their costs.

Contextual Factors Associated with County-Level Suicide Rates in the United States, 1999-2016 is an article on *JAMA Network* by Drs. Danielle L. Steelesmith and colleagues whose study suggests that "Improving social

connectedness, civic opportunities, and health insurance coverage as well as limiting access to lethal means have the potential to reduce suicide rates across the rural-urban continuum."

[Analysis: How Your Beloved Hospital Helps to Drive Up Health Care Costs](#) is a story on *California Healthline* by Elisabeth Rosenthal who reports that data shows that hospitals are by far the biggest cost in our $3.5 trillion health care system. Spending on hospitals represents 44% of personal expenses for the privately insured according to the Rand Corp.

[Community Health Centers Prepare for Funding Uncertainty](#) is a post on the *Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation* site that reports findings from the KFF/Geiger Gibson Community Health Center Survey on how health centers may respond to ongoing funding uncertainty, as the Community Health Center Fund (established by the ACA) and accounts for 72% of all federal health center grant funds) is set to expire once again September 30th.

[Peterson-Kaiser Health System Tracker](#) is an interactive tool that provides current information on U.S. health spending by federal and local governments, private companies, and individuals. Developed by the Kaiser Family Foundation, it uses data from the National Health Expenditure Account and is updated annually. Though the United States spends more on hospital care than any other type of health care, patients overall spend more out-of-pocket on physicians and drugs than hospital care.

MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[Unstable Housing and Caregiver and Child Health in Renter Families](#) is an article in *Pediatrics* by Megan Sandel and colleagues who set out to evaluate how three forms of housing instability related to caregiver and child health among low-income renter households.

['I feel like I'm signing my son's death warrant.' Children at Boston hospitals face deportation](#) is a story in the *Boston Globe* by Michael Levenson who talks about the medical deferred action policy change made by the Trump administration that will affect at least a dozen children receiving treatment at Boston hospitals and potentially thousands of additional immigrants across the country.

[Brief: How health and legal orgs can share information within privacy framework](#) is an issue brief by Jane Hyatt Thorpe and colleagues that discusses numerous opportunities for the medical and legal partners to share information within the boundaries of the privacy framework.

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