



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[*Remembering Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg with One of Her Former Law Clerks*](#) is an article on *Rewire News Group* by Jessica Mason Pieklo who interviewed Colorado AG Phil Weiser about his reflections on the legal legacy Ginsburg has built and how to carry that forward... "What would Justice Ginsburg think?"

[*A 5-Decade-Long Friendship that Began with a Phone Call*](#) is an NPR story by journalist, Nina Totenberg who shares pearls about her esteemed friend and colleague, Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

[*VoteHealth 2020*](#) is a non-partisan coalition of health professionals collaborating to increase the number of our peers and patients registered to vote by November 3, 2020, just 39 days away. *Vote for the health care you want. Vote for the health of your patients. Vote for the health of our democracy.*

[*NAPCRG 2020*](#) will be virtual November 20-24. The planners are committed to providing a top-notch event, and given tighter budgets and the online nature, meeting rates have been adjusted significantly. Register by October 15th for additional savings.

Dr. Lorna Grindlay Moore, professor of Ob-Gyn at the University of Colorado, was featured in an article in [*The Physiologist Magazine*](#) for her work studying pregnancy at high altitudes. What many may not know is that Dr. Moore was instrumental in establishing the CU Health and Behavioral Science PhD program.

[*CeDAR*](#) welcomes new director of behavioral health, Kara McArtor, LPC, LAC, She brings deep and diverse leadership experience, and a commitment to expanding access to treatment.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[*Opioid ODs way up, ERs see 46% case hike*](#) is a story in the *Greenboro News & Record* by Susan Spear who writes about a huge uptick in opioid overdose cases as reported by Injury Free N.C.

[*Many parents are hesitant to give their kids a COVID-19 vaccine. What if schools require it?*](#) is an NBC News story by Elizabeth Chuck about the likelihood that schools will require students to get COVID-19 vaccines in the future potentially setting the stage for a showdown between reluctant parents and education officials. Concern for some lies in politics and the rush to make a vaccine available.

[*How the German and Australian Health Care Systems Could Inform a US Public Option*](#) is a commentary by Richard M. Scheffler and Taylor L. Wang in *The Milbank Quarterly* that evaluates how Germany's and Australia's health care systems have achieved universal coverage by delivering public health insurance.

[*Improving Care for Colorado*](#) is a story in *CU Medicine Today* by Mark Couch about how CU School of Medicine expands access to care statewide with the CMMS withdrawal of the proposed Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Rule.

[*How the pandemic forced mental health care to change for the better*](#) is a story on *Vox* by Brian Resnick about how teletherapy is the future of mental health services, but that it won't be enough to solve America's mental health crisis.

[*How do vaccines get approved for mass distribution Doctors explain.*](#) Is a 5-minute video about the Phase 3 Moderna trial being led by Dr. Thomas Campbell and folks at UCHealth.

[*Mental Health and Police Violence: How Crisis Intervention Teams Are Failing*](#) is an NPR story by Eric Westervelt about "if you keep throwing money at training officers, and that's all you do, and not address the system around mental health care, you'll continue to have nothing but problems."

[*Know the symptoms of ovarian cancer: 23-year-old survivor spreads the word*](#) is a story on Fox 31 by Kim Posey who discusses with Emily Pickthall from Parker, CO, about the symptoms she experienced before being diagnosed ovarian cancer; and because they are not very specific, people tend to ignore them.



POLICY EFFORTS

[*Thousands Driven to Obamacare Couldn't Pay and Lost Coverage*](#) is a story on *Bloomberg Law* by Sara Hansard about how many who signed up for

Obamacare during the pandemic – usually because of job loss – aren't getting health coverage because they couldn't pay their initial premiums, required to activate coverage.

[*A task force by Gov. Jared Polis calls for creating a new Behavioral Health Administration, but the plan has no new funding*](#) is a story in the *Colorado Sun* by Jennifer Brown about findings from the governor's behavioral health task force. The Farley Center team, led by Stephanie Kirchner and Emma Gilchrist, facilitated the work of this year-long effort that resulted in an action plan that calls for creating a centralized office for mental health, *Behavioral Health Administration*, instead of the fragmented system that now includes 75 programs spread across three state agencies. Unfortunately, in this time of budget woes, there is no new money for massive transformation.

[*Congress passes bill establishing 988 for suicide hotline, awaits President's signature*](#) is a story by Chuck Morris for *News 4 Nashville* about how the bill has passed in both the House and the Senate, and now heads to the president's desk for his signature. The Federal Communications Commission has also approved the measure.

[*Mental Health Care Was Severely Inequitable. Then Came the Coronavirus Crisis*](#) is a report on the *Center for American Progress* by Azza Altiraifi and Nicole Rapfogel that lays out the existing barriers to accessing affordable and affirming mental health services; and recommends that local, state and federal governments: 1) immediately increase funding to Medicaid providers and in-need communities, 2) increase funding for peer support and community-based services, 3) address the social determinants of mental health, and 4) commit to permanently funding these policies.

[*The emerging need for telehealth approaches for the treatment of mental illnesses and substance use disorders during the COVID-19 pandemic*](#) is a white paper from Milliman by Steve Melek and colleagues about how with the mental health care gaps and need for more resources, telehealth visits may become part of the new normal.

[*City Officials Must Act Now to Prevent a Devastating Mental Health Crisis*](#) is a blog post on *Health Affairs* by Brian C. Castrucci and Tyler Norris who call to action local elected officials and other community leaders to do what is necessary to move beyond treatment by way of projects/initiatives and instead implement system changes, policy solutions and lasting investments that will save lives.



[*Diagnosis of physical and mental health conditions in primary care during the COVID-19 pandemic: A retrospective cohort study*](#) is an article in *The Lancet, Public Health* by Richard Williams and colleagues about the indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on general practice health care usage, and the subsequent diagnoses of common physical and mental health conditions in a deprived UK population.

[*The Coronavirus Pandemic's Outsized Effect on Women's Mental Health Around the World*](#) is a story in *TIME* by Jeffrey Kluger about new study findings from CARE that found that while almost no one is spared from the anxiety, worry and overall emotional fatigue of the pandemic, women are almost three times as likely as men to report suffering from significant mental health consequences, including anxiety, loss of appetite, inability to sleep and trouble completing everyday tasks.

[*The Pandemic Is Affecting Young Lawyer Mental Health, and Secrecy at Firms Doesn't Help*](#) is a post on *Law.com* by Dylan Jackson about how anxiety and depression among young people is spiking, and an opaque strategy on firm finances and staffing may contribute to stress. A recent CDC study found that more than 40% of midlevel associates said they have anxiety, with three-in-four saying that their firms had a negative impact on their mental health.

[*New research shows many children with mental health conditions don't get follow-up care*](#) is a story on *STAT* by Pratibha Gopalakrishna about new study findings from a large investigation that examined insurance claims from children between the ages of 10 and 17 covered by Blue Cross Blue Shield.

[*Pregnancy-related death is a national crisis. Medicaid expansion could help address that.*](#) Is a story in *USA Today* by Shefali Luthra that highlights a study that shows expanding access to Medicaid could dramatically improve pregnant people's access to health care and address some of the factors driving the nation's disparity in pregnancy-related and postpartum deaths.

[*NPR Poll: Financial Pain from Coronavirus Pandemic 'Much, Much Worse' than Expected*](#) is an NPR story by Joe Neel about a poll sponsored by NPR, RWJF and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health conducted in Houston, NYC, Chicago and LA. Findings indicate that at least half of people say they have experienced the loss of a job or a reduction in wages or work hours in their household since the start of the coronavirus outbreak.

[*Many Hospitals Charge More than Twice What Medicare Pays for the Same Care*](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Reed Abelson about how the gap between rates set for private insurers and employers vs. those by the federal government stirs the debate over a government-run health plan.

[*As COVID-19 Recession Extended into Summer 2020, More than 3 Million Lost Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance Coverage and 2 Million Became Uninsured*](#) is a report on the RWFJ site by A. Gangopadhyaya and colleagues about data from the Household Pulse Survey, April-July 2020. Because most adults in America under age 65 get health insurance coverage through their or a family member's employer, many people in families losing jobs are also at risk of losing coverage.



MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[*Surviving the Pandemic podcast: Ellen Lawton on the eviction tsunami*](#) is a

podcast in which Ellen Lawton, lead research scientist at George Washington University and co-director of the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership, discusses the “impending eviction tsunami” that will burden millions and how this will only add to the global health emergency.

[*5 questions with our new Director, Bethany Hamilton*](#) is a 12-minute conversation/welcome with the new director of the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership. Bethany Hamilton’s background can be [found here](#).

[*Study shows unaddressed legal issues may be a risk factor for hospital readmission*](#) is an article by Emma James and colleagues about a recent study that examined the impact of unmet legal needs on hospital readmission rates (n=2500 hospital discharges).



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