



EUGENE S. FARLEY, JR.
HEALTH POLICY CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 092719



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[*Virtual Reality and Behavioral Healthcare Symposium*](#) is a two-day conference sponsored by the National Mental Health Innovation Center October 6-8 on the Anschutz Medical Campus designed to bring together people with lived experience, mental health clinicians, research and industry to think and learn together to ensure a healthy evolution of technology and real world practice focused on solutions that people need.

[*Putting Our Cornerstones into Practice*](#) is a blog post on *In Good Health* about how the Colorado Health Foundation has added questions to the application process that ask applicants how they: 1) serve populations living on low-income who have historically experienced less power and privilege, 2) keep informed in their work by the communities they serve, and 3) seek to address healthy equity through their programs and/or projects. [Read more here](#) about how TCHF's grant-making practices have changed to reflect their cornerstones.

If you are a family physician, have 5 minutes to spare, and wish to help Dr. Melissa DiPetrillo, medical director of the Boston University Physician Assistant Program, better understand PA preparedness to practice so she can modify the PA curriculum to enhance PA performance, please [click here](#).



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[*His Name Was Liam*](#) is a heart-wrenching story on the *Catholic Health Association of the United States* site as told by Lisa Picker, the mother of a son who died by suicide and the disease that took his life. [*The Suicide Epidemic*](#) is a podcast sponsored by Catholic Health USA featuring Lisa Picker and Ben Miller, chief strategy officer, Well Being Trust, who discuss how health care organizations and policymakers can better address this epidemic.

[*To prevent gun violence, it takes a community*](#) is a story posted on the *CU Anschutz Medical Campus* site about the recent panel discussion hosted by the Farley Health Policy Center on the Anschutz campus and moderated by Dr. Shale Wong, about gun violence prevention.

[*Treating Loneliness as a Medical Condition*](#) is a story on *Reasons to be cheerful* by Christine McLaren about how a small-town clinic in England began prescribing human connection to its lonely patients, saw rates of chats over coffee increased and hospital visits fall.

[*Last Day*](#) is a new podcast by Stephanie Wittels Wachs who talks about “what’s killing us, the stuff that’s hard to comprehend and getting worse every day.” She zooms in on a person’s last day of life, exploring how they got there and how we as a society, have gotten here.

[*It Takes a Teenager to Help a Teenager in Crisis*](#) is an opinion piece in *The New York Times* by Catherine Cheney about how many troubled adolescents find it easier to share their angst and dread on a hotline with people their age, rather than their parents.

[*How to be more hopeful*](#) is a compilation of eight Ted Talks about how to nudge your mind toward the sunny side.

[*How a “warm handoff: is making mental health care a regular part of doctor visits in Boulder*](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Jennifer Brown about how Boulder Community Health has integrated mental health care into 10 of its primary care clinics and is attracting attention from the insurance industry. [Read more here.](#)



[*The Health 202: Who is writing 2020 Democrats’ health plans? We found out.*](#) is a story in *The Washington Post* by Paige Winfield Cunningham about the identities of some of the advisers involved with drafting these plans that include: Clinton veteran Chris Jennings, former Obama HHS secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Center for American Progress president Neera Tanden and Andy Slavitt, former director of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Some have added health policy advisers as well including: Rohini Kosoglu, senior health care adviser to Sen Michael Bennett (while ACA was being debated/passed), Kavita Patel who advised Sen. Ted Kennedy on health policy, and Mayor Pete released a proposal on mental health that was heavily influenced by Ben Miller’s work.

[*Uber and Lyft Ride-sharing Services Hitch onto Medicaid*](#) is a story on Kaiser Health News by Phil Galewitz about how Arizona has become the first state to revamp its Medicaid regulations to make it easier for ride-sharing companies to participate in its nonemergency transportation benefit.

[*Health Care Costs Are Eating Us Alive, A New Survey Shows*](#) is a story in the

Huffington Post by Jeffrey Young about how the average premium for job-based health insurance that covers a family has risen 54% to \$20,756 in the past 10 years.

[*The Neglect of Mental Illness Exacts a Huge Toll, Human and Economic*](#) is a 2012 article in *Scientific American* by the editors about how by letting mental afflictions go untreated, we consign millions of Americans to misery and put a drag on our economy.

[*NYC Experiments with Routing 911 Calls to Mental Health Experts*](#) is a story on *gothamist* by Caroline Lewis about the recognition that mental health-related calls to 911 are not handled satisfactorily, and a pilot indicated the calls needing particular expertise went way beyond the available resources. An Oregon program (CAHOOTS) has made strides in creating teams that consist of a medic and a mental health counselor to divert as many calls for help as possible.

[*Program to Prevent Suicide by Veterans Earns Bipartisan Support*](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Jennifer Steinhauer about Be Connected, a program that focuses on reaching veterans at risk for suicide no matter their residence.



[*Access to mental health, substance abuse treatment in Colorado getting worse, survey finds*](#) is a story in *The Gazette* by Jakob Rodgers who reports on findings from the most recent Colorado Health Access Survey by the Colorado Health Institute that questioned 10,000 households across the state on everything from insurance rates for mental well-being.

[*New global 'scorecard' to map extent of mental illness crisis*](#) is a story in *The Guardian* by Mark Rice-Oxley about a global initiative (Countdown Global Mental Health 2030) to measure the extent of mental illness around the world and identify some of the most effective treatments was unveiled in New York this week. According to Harvard professor Shekhar Saxena, "when it comes to mental health, all countries are developing countries."

[*Increased Cardiovascular Disease Risk in Veterans with Mental Illness*](#) is an article on *AHA Journals* by Marcy C. Vance and colleagues who reports the findings from their study looking at the association of psychiatric diagnoses with major cardiovascular disease outcomes over five years.

[*Want to Reduce Suicides? Follow the Data – To Medical Offices, Motels and Even Animal Shelters*](#) is a Kaiser Health News story by Maureen O'Hagan about how an epidemiologist was asked to study suicide in Washington County, Oregon and how data created change.

[*Students Need Ready Allies for Mental Health*](#) is a story on *Thrive Global* by Patrick J. Kennedy and Alison Malmon about how we need to work together to make mental well-being as important as physical well-being. Three actions to incorporate into our way of being when someone tells us they are really

stressed: validate, appreciate, and refer.

[*These scientists want to make psychotherapy sessions much, much shorter*](#) is a story on *Vox* by Brian Resnick about whether 30-minute sessions of therapy help kids struggling with depression. Given the lack of adequate numbers of counsellors and systems that make getting care challenging, a researcher at Stony Brook University is trying to find interventions to help fill the gaps that are as brief as possible, and don't require a clinician to administer.

[*Employer kindness can improve performance and mental health*](#) is a story in *Medical News Today* by Monica Beyer about a Penn State study found that even small gestures of kindness were morale boosters and helped improve employees' mental health and performance.



[*Integrating Legal Services into Recovery Efforts: Can Medical-Legal Partnerships Help?*](#) is the second webinar in a 3-part series called Rural Health and the Law, Part II co-sponsored by the American Health Lawyers Association's (AHLA) In-House Counsel Practice Group October 10th noon to 2PM MDT, and will focus on public health and legal approaches to addressing the opioid epidemic in rural communities.

[*Press Release: Bowditch & Dewey, LLP Nationally Recognized for Uplifting Worcester's Most Vulnerable*](#) is a press release about how the Bowditch & Dewey, LLP firm was nationally recognized by the American Bar Association for its exceptional commitment to helping Worcester's most vulnerable citizens.

[*MHA Safety and Quality Symposium*](#) this week in Detroit, Dayna Matthew made this plea to clinicians on behalf of their patients:

- screen for social needs
- integrate non-health services
- form medical-legal partnerships
- provide anti-bias intervention
- be the healing hub
- fight for bolder laws

[*AYUDA FAMILIAS Receives National 2019 Impact Award for Legal-Medical Partnerships*](#) is a story in *The State Journal (Kentucky)* that reports on the recipient of the inaugural Impact Award by the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnerships at Milken School for Public Health at The George Washington University. Drs. Ruby Powers and Kate Sugarman were honored for their rapid-response approach to the Trump administration's "zero tolerance" immigration policy, beginning in the summer of 2018.



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