



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[*NIH announces winners of high school mental health essay contest*](#) is a news release on the NIH site about a national contest of high school student essays about stigma and social barriers in seeking mental health treatment. Ten winners were named and their essays with creative solutions are [available here](#).



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[*Leadership Interview: Sheriff Matt Lewis, Mesa County*](#) is an interview with Sheriff Matt Lewis, for *Ascent* posted on the Rocky Mountain Health Plan Community website. Sheriff discusses his agency's work with behavioral health crises and how capacity is the biggest shortfall.

[*Five questions with Heather Kennedy: Engaging young people in social action*](#) is an interview posted on the Colorado School of Public Health's news page with Heather Kennedy, an MPH alum and recent PhD in social work who oversee two grants that engage young people in social action programs.

[*Katie's Story*](#) is a six-minute video posted on the *Mental Health Colorado's* website about a young woman who struggled with addiction and depression starting at age 14 but who is in graduate school today at a top university.

For partners interested in partnership sustainability, folks from the Trailhead Institute, the University of Colorado and the Boulder County Health Department have put together a [toolkit library](#) of resources for use.

[*Public health ethics toolkit offers unique resource*](#) is a story on the *CU Anschutz Medical Campus* website by Blair Ilsley about a website that delves

into ethical issues confronted every day in public health, a project spearheaded by the CU Center for Bioethics and Humanities and the Colorado School of Public Health.

[*Hospitals are buying up housing units, helping 'stranded' patients find a home*](#)

Is a story in *USA Today* by Markian Hawryluk about how hospital in Baltimore, St. Louis and Sacramento are exploring ways to help patients “stranded in the hospital” find homes. And how Denver Health is partnering with the Denver Housing Authority to repurpose a “mothballed” building on the hospital campus into affordable senior housing, including about 15 apartments designated to help homeless patients transition out of the hospital.



[*Boulder can protect its youth by banning flavored tobacco products*](#) is an opinion piece by Dr. Jon Samet, Dean of the Colorado School of Public Health and Boulder resident, urging the Boulder City Council to take an action needed to protect Boulder’s youth.

[*Health Care Safety-Net Programs After the Affordable Care Act: Innovative Approaches and Opportunities for States*](#) is an issue brief by Drs. Mark Hall and Janet Weiner for Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics that reviews the effects of the ACA on the funding and operation of safety-net institutions. It highlights the challenges and opportunities that health care reform presents to safety-net programs, and how they have adapted and evolved to continue to serve our most vulnerable populations.

[*Millions Gone Unclaimed: Behind California’s Troubled Mental Health Care Funding System*](#) is a story on *California Health Report* by Claudia Boyd-Barrett about how folks at the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency began looking at a “little-known reimbursement category called Mental Health Medical Administrative Activities to increase Medicaid funding and to expand access to care to 10,000 children.

[*Data standards may be wonky, but they will transform health care*](#) is an opinion piece on *Stat News* by Kenneth D. Mandl and Isaac S. Kohane about how a new rule proposed by the Department of Health and Human Services earlier this year that will set data standards for health information technologies to communicate and interact with each other has large implications for what it means to receive health care in the United States.

[*Supervisors unveil revised vision for mental health care overhaul*](#) is a story in the *San Francisco Chronicle* by Dominic Fracassa about a measure that San Francisco Supervisors Hillary Ronen and Matt Haney plan to place on the March 2020 ballot to compel city health officials to fix the city’s fragmented and often ineffective systems of care.

[*With the Affordable Care Act’s future in doubt, evidence grows that it has saved*](#)

lives is a story in *The Washington Post* by Amy Goldstein who suggests that the ACA's supports have not taken political advantage of the signs that the law is translating into better health.



[*The VA Is Training Clergy Members to Recognize Veterans with Mental Health Issues*](#) is a CPR story by the American Homefront Project about data that shows that VA training of clergy to identify mental health problems is making a difference.

[*A Winning Goal: Pay Equity in Public Health*](#) is a blog post on *Health Affairs* by Chrissie Juliano about survey results revealed several types of gender inequities in public health. On average, after controlling for experience, age, supervisory status, and geography; a woman in governmental public health makes \$3,000 less per year than her male counterpart.

[*Urging Doctors and Health Systems to Recognize the Importance of Social Supports to Patients*](#) is a story in *Forbes* by Howard Gleckman about National Academies of Sciences study findings that should encourage both policymakers and medical practitioners to pay more attention to the importance of social supports to the well-being of patients.

[*Few ACOs Pursue Innovative Models that Integrate Care for Mental Illness and Substance Abuse with Primary Care*](#) is a story in *Health Affairs* by Valerie A. Lewis and colleagues about a 2014 study designed to examine the extent to which ACOs are clinically, organizationally and financially integrating behavioral health care and primary care.

[*Some mental-health professionals find it hard to seek help – and can suffer from even greater stigma*](#) is a *Market Watch* story by Meera Jagannathan about data that showed that obstacles for engaging in self-care included: not having enough time, concern about privacy or confidentiality, and denying or minimizing problems.

[*Potential economic impact of integrated medical-behavioral healthcare: Updated projections for 2017*](#) is a Milliman report from last year that uses healthcare cost and utilization data to project spending estimates for people with chronic medical and comorbid behavioral conditions in 2017.



[*Every year medical-legal partnerships help thousands of people in 46 states*](#) cites studies on the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership website that

demonstrates the impact MLPs have had.

[*Eliminating Hurdles to Life-Changing Medication*](#) is part of the “Patients to Policy” story series by Kate Marple and Erin Dexter for the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership



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