



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

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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## NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[\*Climate change in the curriculum\*](#) is a story on the *AAMC* website by Beth Howard who reports that as the impacts of climate change on health become more prominent, a growing number of medical schools are adding climate-related content to the curriculum. Students are leading the charge as they are the ones who are going to find themselves on the frontlines of climate change consequences.

[\*CU names new engagement and outreach leader\*](#) is a story in *CU Connections* that announces the hiring of Tony Salazar as assistant vice president for engagement. Salazar is a Colorado native will lead statewide initiatives and beyond with a particular emphasis on engagement with diverse communities to help in part with student recruitment and getting a better understanding of the needs of those around the state.

[\*Tackling Stigma, Mobilizing Hope: Opening Doors to Quality Mental Health Care for All\*](#) is a conference sponsored by the Joint World Dignity Project and the University of San Diego International Conference June 11-13, 2020 in San Diego; aimed at mobilizing the public to ensure dignity in mental health is a reality for all. Registrations and abstracts are being accepted now.

[\*TCHF Symposium Unplugged: Sparking Ideas for Healthy Homes in Rural Colorado\*](#) will be held November 7<sup>th</sup> at the Steam Plant Event Center Ballroom in Salida, designed to foster shared learning, networking and collaboration among attendees.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[\*Keeping the faith on mental health\*](#) is a story in *Colorado Politics* by Debbie Kelley and Steve Rabey about how the sense of connectedness to others generated by involvement with a faith community can help people feel less lonely, and a new training program in Colorado that is helping churches develop best practices when it comes to addressing members' mental health problems.

[\*Ending Gaze Aversion Toward Child Abuse and Neglect\*](#) is an essay by Dr. Dick Krugman published in *Health Affairs* that discusses how not enough has been done to tackle the national problems of child abuse and neglect in the last 50 years.

[\*Speaking Out about Depression in Colorado Farm Country\*](#) is a 7-minute video co-produced by The Colorado Trust and Chance Multimedia that highlights increased mental health problems and risk for farmers and ranchers in rural Colorado and the needs of people there.

[\*Preventing Bullying through Science, Policy and Practice\*](#) contains a useful product/toolkit from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine for parents, school administrators, teachers, health care providers, community leaders and policy-makers about bullying.

[\*The mhGAP \(mental health Gap Action Programme\)\*](#) is a community toolkit (field test version) from the World Health Organization that aims to provide practical guidance for how to identify local mental health needs and to tailor community services to match these needs.



[\*Losing Your Job Can Be a Real Heart Breaker\*](#) is a story by Alan Mozes for *U.S. News* who quotes Dr. Edward Havranek of Denver Health as saying, "One could argue that the fraying social and economic fabric of American society is quite literally, killing us." He added that the link between income and heart health has significant public policy" implications.

[\*They enrolled in medical school to practice rural medicine. What happened?\*](#) is a story in the *Tennessean* by Lauren Weber who discusses the number of baby boomers reaching retirement age and the challenges facing rural recruitment, and the flaws in the pipeline.

[\*Focusing on State-Level Primary Care Initiatives: From a Small State with a Great Need\*](#) is an opinion piece by Kara Odom Walker, a family physician serving as Cabinet Secretary for the Department of Health and Social Services in Delaware, for *The Milbank Quarterly* who talks about the dire need for investment in primary care.

[\*Poor People Are Still Sicker than the Rich in Germany, Despite Universal Health Care\*](#) is an *NPR* story by Shefali Luthra about how a country hailed

around the world for its robust health care system (universal coverage, plentiful primary care, low drug prices and minimal out-of-pocket costs for residents) also has low-income patients who are sicker than those wealthier; hence universal health care, in and of itself, isn't a magical solution for all. Social determinants of health factor strongly into a population's well-being.

[\*Arlington nonprofit expands to Montgomery as region responds to affordable housing crunch\*](#) is a story in *The Washington Post* by Rebecca Tan about how a leading affordable housing nonprofit purchased an 87-unit townhouse complex, one of the last privately owned complexes in Montgomery with a rent subsidy contract under the federal Section 8 program. The nonprofit has committed to renewing the contract and ensuring that rents remain stable... where 82% of units serve households that make fewer than 30% of Montgomery's area median income (about \$36,000).

[\*Impact of Shifting Immigration Policy on Medicaid Enrollment and Utilization of Care among Health Center Patients\*](#) is an issue brief, posted on the *Kaiser Family Foundation* site by Jennifer Tolbert and colleagues, that draws on interviews and survey data to capture 16 health center directors' and staff's perceptions of changes in four states in coverage and service use among patients who are immigrants.

[\*Fed Up with Deaths, Native Americans Want to Run their Own Health Care\*](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Mark Walker who reports that in states with Indian Health Service hospitals, the death rates for preventable diseases are three to five times higher for Native Americans than for other races combined.

[\*Breed unveils \\$200M plan to fix mental illness crisis, calls for 'serious changes'\*](#) is a story in the *San Francisco Chronicle* by Dominic Fracassa and Trisha Thadani about how San Francisco's mayor will unveil her plan (UrgentCareSF) next week or tackling the city's deepening mental health crisis that includes housing ~4,000 people in the city from suffering homelessness, psychosis and substance abuse disorder.

[\*Mental health care: It's the haves vs the have-nots in Mississippi\*](#) is a story in the *Clarion Ledger* by Shirley L. Smith about a system created with good intentions in the '70s, but one that is sorely inadequate for the times.

[\*"Public Charge" Rule: Trump Administration Action Targeting Immigrant Families\*](#) is a post on the County of Santa Clara Office of the County Counsel about how the DHS is barred from enforcing new public charge rule in California due to them winning a preliminary injunction. The county urges residents to keep using Medi-Cal, CalFresh and public housing.

[\*Medicaid Block Grants Would Lead to Dramatic Revenue Drops for Community Health Centers in Most States\*](#) is an article in *The Milbank Quarterly* by Anne Rossier Markus and colleagues who call our attention to the fact that state policymakers should understand the likely impacts of proposed Medicaid program changes on health centers in their states and allocate funding to help offset lost federal financing.



## RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

[\*The Huge Waste in the U.S. Health System\*](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Austin Frakt about a new study published in *JAMA* that found that roughly 20-25% of American health care spending is wasteful...not news yet we know little about how to prevent it. Best available evidence would eliminate only one-quarter of the waste, reducing health spending by about 5%.

[\*I study teen suicide and believe clinical science can predict who is at risk\*](#) is a story in *The Conversation* by Adam Bryant Miller, researcher from Chapel Hill who studies why teenagers die by suicide, who is studying neural circuits that are linked with stress responses and that may increase risk for suicide.

[\*Can Healthcare Measure TLC?\*](#) is a post in CFHA's *Integrated Care News* by Dr. Barry Jacobs, a clinical psychologist and family therapist at Health Management Associates, who writes about the importance of TLC in a system that limits the amount of time a clinician has with a patient.

[\*From Incremental to Comprehensive Health Reform: How Various Reform Options Compare on Coverage and Costs\*](#) is a report in *Urban Institute* by Linda J. Blumberg and colleagues about a study funded by the Commonwealth Fund that analyzes eight health care reforms and their potential effects on health insurance coverage and spending.

[\*Declining U.S. Expectancy and the 2020 Presidential Election\*](#) is a post on news@JAMA by Ali Bokhari and Dr. Joshua Sharfstein from Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, who write about that despite the U.S.'s demoralizing statistics regarding life expectancy, no presidential candidate has addressed this decline.

[\*Alcohol is killing more people, and younger. The biggest increases are among women.\*](#) is a *USA Today* story by Jayne O'Donnell who reports on how the number of deaths attributable to alcohol increased 35% from 2007 to 2017 according to a new analysis by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, and the death rate rose 24%...an 85% increase in deaths in women.

[\*St. Luke's awarded \\$3.4 million for suicide study\*](#) is a story in *Mt. Express* by Emily Jones about the largest-to-date study to address the rising suicide rate, which will be undertaken in the St. Luke's system across southern Idaho. Funding will allow for two new hires at Idaho's suicide prevention hotline.



## MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[\*Understanding Community Justice Partnerships\*](#) is a report posted on *Urban*

*Institute* by Caterina Gouvis Roman and colleagues that synthesizes knowledge derived from the authors' literature review and consultation with other researchers and clinicians about factors that may affect a community's ability to organize, mobilize and build capacity to serve as an active partner with criminal justice agencies.

[\*Medical legal partnerships – a powerful collaboration for change. Clinicians and lawyers working together to prevent lead poisoning in Chicago and beyond.\*](#) is an article in *Pediatrics* by Sara Naureckas who talks about the growing model where clinicians and lawyers work together to more effectively address a broad range of social determinants of health.

[\*National Health Law Program\*](#) is an organization of expert health care litigators and policy advocates founded in 1969 in California for the purpose of securing health rights for all people. A sizable portion of its work focuses on expanding access to and improving the quality of Medi-Cal, the country's largest state Medicaid program, which can have ramifications nationwide.



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