



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 102519



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[*HHS Awards \\$16 Million to Help Primary Care Practices Address Patients' Unhealthy Alcohol Use*](#) is a press release from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality about an initiative to help primary care practices increase efforts to address patients' unhealthy alcohol use. Six grantees will work with more than 700 practices over three years. One of the grantees is Dr. Perry Dickinson and his team at the University of Colorado Department of Family Medicine.

[*Research and Practice Innovation Exchange*](#) is an e-poster presentation sponsored by the Community and Behavioral Health Research and Practice Innovation Exchange November 1, 2019, 8-11AM at Krugman Hall on the Anschutz campus. Purpose: to promote this group's research (school-based wellness, vaping, needle exchange programs, early intervention for substance abuse, workforce development, cancer prevention, and more) in a rapid-fire format.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[*Firearms and Dementia: "A Big Deal and a Touch Issue"*](#) is an interview on *JAMA Network* with Dr. Emmy Betz, emergency medicine clinician at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, by Rebecca Voelker about preventing firearm injury relative to people with dementia.

[*In Defense of the Word "Joy"*](#) is an article by Virginia Patania for the Institute for Healthcare Improvement who discusses the meaning of joy in work and includes a framework for consideration to improve joy in work.

[*The Neighborly Way to Co-Create Better Mental Health for Seniors*](#) is a story by Vibeke Rischel for the Institute for Healthcare Improvement about a program that set out to find new ways to detect and prevent depression in older adults and improve their mental health and quality of life using “co-creation.”

[*Health Care Providers Are Hiring the Wrong People*](#) is an article in *Harvard Business Review* by Elena Butler and Shreya Kangovi who write about how the new healthcare workforce needs more than biomedical knowledge, but rather it needs empathetic team players at all levels who can support patient holistically.

[*What Employers Can Do about Mental Healthcare*](#) is a Leaders Edge podcast with Katie Oberkircher and Ben Miller about delivery and payment reform, the skimpy options permeating the commercial market, and how to apply the concept of social determinants of health to the work setting.



[*Families fight insurers for life-saving care for loved ones with mental health conditions*](#) is a CBS News story that highlights the ills of insurance company guidelines, with the hope that changes are coming in some instances.

[*Four big drug firms agree to \\$260 million opioid payout hours before trial set to begin*](#) is a story in *The Guardian* by Chris McGreal who reports that Teva and three drug distributors agreed to a multimillion-dollar payout over the U.S. opioid epidemic earlier this week, hours before a landmark federal trial (in Ohio) in which they were facing accusations of a conspiracy to profit from addiction and death.

[*Defunding Student Mental Health*](#) is a story by Greta Anderson for *Inside Higher Ed* who reports that the largest community college in Pennsylvania stopped providing on-campus clinical counseling services students, despite the fact that university and college administrators nationwide have been increasingly saying that student mental health issues are one of the most pressing and costly challenges on today’s campuses.

[*Baker Bill Demands More Money for Primary Care and Behavioral Health*](#) is a story in *CommonHealth* by Martha Bebinger who reports on how Gov. Charlie Baker of Massachusetts is igniting another round of health care debates in MA with a bill that would require all providers and insurers to boost spending in primary care and behavioral health penalize excessive drug price increases and limit surprise emergency billing.

[*New Zealand’s Wellbeing Budget Invests in Population Health*](#) is an opinion piece by Michael Mintrom, professor of public policy at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia, for *The Milbank Quarterly* who suggests that the two things about this budget relevant to governments everywhere are: 1) the government’s intentional focus on just five priority areas for all new funding

(improving mental health, reducing child poverty, addressing the inequalities faced by indigenous people, thriving in a digital age, and transitioning to a low-emission, sustainable economy), and 2) how it advances the practice of treating public policies as investments.



RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

[*Voluntary Behavioral Health Integration in Medi-Cal: What Can Be Achieved under Current Law*](#) is a study/paper supported by the California Health Care Foundation and written by two attorneys that explores different contracting structures through which a county could lead efforts to create such an accountable entity.

[*Reports expand mental health competencies, strategies for practice*](#) is an AAP news story by Dr. Cori Meredith Green who discusses an updated AAP policy statement and a new technical report that recommend competencies pediatricians should achieve to meet the mental health needs of today's children.

[*How Germany averted an opioid crisis*](#) is an NBC News story by Shefali Luthra who reports that "unlike in the United States, opioids have never emerged as a front-line medical treatment in Germany." The contrast highlights a significant divergence in how the two countries view pain as well as distinct policy approaches to health care and substance abuse treatment.

[*Alcohol and "Deaths of Despair"*](#) is an article in *NIAAA Spectrum* about studies that emphasizes the importance and urgency of ensuring that all people possess basic knowledge of alcohol's immediate and long-term health effect, and that all healthcare professionals, from trainees through senior clinicians, make alcohol assessment an integral part of every interaction with patients.

[*Why we're failing to stop teen suicide*](#) is a story for *AXIOS* by Marisa Fernandez who reports the numbers and our failures.

[*Study finds no link between youth contact sports and cognitive, mental health problems*](#) is a story by Lisa Marshall in *CU Boulder Today* who discusses findings from a recent study of 11,000 youth followed for 14 years that did not find a direct causal link between youth contact sports, head injuries and downstream adverse effect like impaired cognitive ability and mental health in those who play sports by their late 20s to early 30s.



MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[*HIV prevention drugs will be available without a prescription in California*](#) is a

story in the *Los Angeles Times* by Melody Gutierrez who reports on Senate Bill 159 by Sen. Scott Wiener and Assemblyman Todd Gloria that allows pharmacists to dispense pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis, known as PEP, in a way similar to birth control and emergency contraceptives.

[*New law in New York means most insurance plans will now cover IVFs*](#) is a story in the *NY Post* by Maridel Reyes about a law that will go into effect January 1, 2020 that could help relieve the financial burden for an estimated 2.4 million New Yorkers interested in in vitro fertilization.

[*Pharmaceutical Companies Are Luring Mexicans Across the U.S. Border to Donate Blood Plasma*](#) is a story by Stefanie Dodt and colleagues for *ProPublica* about companies that offer high payments and bring-a-friend bonuses to Mexicans who cross the border on temporary visas to donate blood plasma. The United States offers weaker health protections for donors than most countries.

[*Smaller Medical Providers Get Burned by Ransomware*](#) is a story in *The Wall Street Journal* by Adam Janofsky about how cyberattacks are pummeling doctors, dentists and community hospital around the United States, causing some to turn away patients and others to shut down.

[*Overhaul is proposed for decades-old Medicare fraud rules*](#) is an *AP News* story by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar about how the Trump administration proposes to improve follow-up care for patients upon discharge from the hospital, and make the health care system more efficient. This rule-making process will be pored over by lawyers for the health care industry (billions at stake), and is expected to take months.

[*New Round of Medicare Readmission Penalties Hits 2,585 Hospitals*](#) is a *Kaiser Health News Story* by Jordan Rau about a new payment cut this week to financially pressure hospitals into reducing the number of patients who return for a second stay within a month. Of the 3,129 general hospitals evaluated, 83% received a penalty.

[*City Council member wants life-saving anti-bias training for all medical students in New York state*](#) is a story in the *NY Daily News* by Shant Shahrigan about how a Manhattan City Council member is pushing for the council to pass a resolution calling on state lawmakers to mandate implicit bias training in medical schools.



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