



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[*Is the Fitzsimons Building Haunted?*](#) is a story on the *CU Anschutz Medical Campus* website by Blair Ilsley about the original General Hospital building built in 1918 in Aurora, Colorado, to treat soldiers infected with tuberculosis during WWI; and the paranormal activity that lurks inside those walls. The building name was changed to Fitzsimons Army Hospital in 1920 in honor of Lt. William Thomas Fitzsimons and then later changed to Fitzsimons Army Medical Center. Today, this building houses the CU School of Medicine registrar's office among other things.

[*2020 Beyond Flexner*](#) is a conference held April 20-22, 2020 in Phoenix, AZ, titled "Transforming Health Professions Education: Social Mission, Equity, and Community." Beyond Flexner is a national movement focused on health equity and training health professionals as agents of more equitable health care to build a system that is better and fairer.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[*Mental health apps help ease anxiety, depression*](#) is a story on *3 News Now* by Annie Taylor who reports that because apps aren't regulated, they are allowed to claim whatever they want without having to show evidence for such claims. A psychologist, Dr. Cameron Sepah recommends delving into sites looking for publications, proof of studies involving a large population, etc. prior to using them.

[*Let's Fix Rural Americans' Inadequate Access to Care*](#) is a post on the AAFP blog by Dr. Kyle Leggott, a family doc doing a fellowship in health policy at the University of Colorado, whose story highlights the need for prioritizing resource allocation to rural communities and growing a rural physician workforce that

involves training more physicians in rural communities.



POLICY EFFORTS

[*How Doctors Can Help Prevent Gun Violence*](#) is a story in *Harvard Business Review* by Drs. Megan L. Ranney and Marian E. Betz, professor of emergency medicine from Brown University and University of Colorado, respectively; who discuss the tension between the NRA and physicians and healthcare professionals who advocate for firearm injury prevention. They also discuss how this effort is being welcomed beyond the medical community, the acceleration this effort is experiencing, and the continued need for data-driven solutions.

[*What Would a Medicaid Block Grant Mean for Community Health Centers?*](#) is a post on *The Milbank Blog* by Dr. Jennifer Lee, the former director of the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services, about how block grant experiments are gaining traction at the state level. And how new research from the Milken Institute School of Public Health should give pause to supporter of block grants as they would be harmful to a key component of the safety net in our most medically underserved communities, community health centers.

[*Uber, Lyft working with more health-care providers to get patients to appointments*](#) is a story on *Cleveland.com* by Ginger Christ about how providers, insurers and patients are turning to ride-hailing services for non-emergency medical appointments...services meant to save time and money for patients and providers.

[*A Woman's Grief Led to a Mental Health Crisis and a \\$21,634 Hospital Bill*](#) is an NPR story by Laura Ungar about the perils of association health plans.



RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

[*How Does Political Advertising Shape Public Population Health Discussion?*](#) is an article in *The Milbank Quarterly* by Erika Franklin Fowler and colleagues who conducted a content analysis of candidate-related campaign advertisements aired on local broadcast, national network and national cable television in the 2011-2012 and 2015-2016 election cycles. The study found that these ads rarely connected population health-relevant issues to health, and that the volume and type of ad by geographic area that suggests that where a person lives affects their potential exposure to political communication about health-related topics.

[*AI Can Outperform Doctors So Why Don't Patients Trust It?*](#) is an article in *Harvard Business Review* by Chiara Longoni and Carey K. Morewedge who explored patients' receptivity to medical AI via a series of experiments, which seemed to point to a belief that AI does not consider one's idiosyncratic characteristics and circumstances.

[State of Health Report Shows Growing Despair Among American Men](#) is an article on *Bloomberg* by Alexandre Tanzi who discusses the findings reported in the National Center for Health Statistics latest annual report that includes a decline in life expectancy for males due in part to deaths from despair.

[Why We Are Building a Community of “Emotional Support Humans”](#) is a post to the *Health Affairs Blog* by Nikki Highsmith Vernick about a campaign in Howard County, Maryland, designed to encourage people to approach mental and behavioral health with humor and without fear or shame, modeled on the concept of emotional support animals.

[The “Behavioral Health Vital Signs” Initiative](#) is a case study in the *NEJM Catalyst* by Dr. Leigh Kimberg and colleagues about a multi-sector partnership program, ARISE (Aspire to Realize Improved Safety and Equity) designed to improve the health and safety of adults and children affected by interpersonal violence involving a screening tool, system-wide changes, and the alignment of system incentives to support a more trauma-informed approach to primary care and behavioral health integration.

[CU Boulder research to focus on often-overlooked rural America](#) is a story by Kenna Bruner for Colorado Arts and Sciences Magazine who reports on an NIH award to the CU Population Center in the Institute of Behavioral Science that will focus on learning about and understanding small towns and their residents.

[When Talking about Social Determinants, Precision Matters](#) is a post on the *Health Affairs Blog* by Katie Green and Megan Zook who highlight the importance of clear communication and language in the determination of roles that health care providers and payers can and should play in addressing the underlying factors that influence population health.



[Bridging Divides: The MLPB Blog](#) is a post by Samantha Morton on the Medical Legal Partnership Boston blog about legal partnering as prevention... supporting families to thrive...as a measure of our integrity as a society.

[Medical-legal partnerships address social issues affecting patient health](#) is an article by Dr. Susan M. Scott (physician with a JD) for *AAP News* who reported two years ago that nearly 300 MLPs are housed in 155 hospitals, 52 law schools, 239 health centers, 34 health schools associated with 126 legal aid agencies and 64 pro bono legal partners...most are related to pediatric patients and are primarily associated with children’s hospitals (certainly these numbers have changed). She points out the value of such partnerships citing several case studies.

[LSC and Medical-Legal Partnerships](#) is a post on the Legal Services Corporation America’s Partner for Equal Justice site about how the strength of these partnerships lie in the collaboration among health care, public health, and civil legal aid professionals who don’t normally work together, but collectively

engage in trainings, patient care, and policy work.



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