



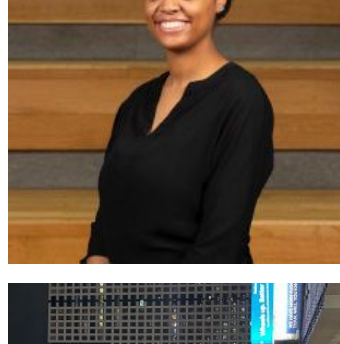
## Farley's Features: August 22

### Bridging research and policy



Welcome to Farley's Features, the Farley Health Policy Center's monthly newsletter, focusing on key health policy issues that span primary care, behavioral health, and public health practice. Our interprofessional team invites your perspectives as we pursue health policy research, translation, implementation, and education.

### Message from the Farley Center



Dear Alison,

As our political and social landscapes continue to shift, it is more important than ever to embrace bold, creative strategies to address public health challenges. Traditional approaches alone cannot meet the evolving needs of our communities. We must lean into interdisciplinary, forward-thinking solutions that reflect the lived experiences of our communities.

At the Farley Center, we recognize the arts as a transformative catalyst to promote health, advance advocacy, and strengthen community connections. In partnership with Cleo Parker Robinson Dance, we launched the Arts Alliance for Health in Colorado in 2020 — an alliance committed to advancing justice and confronting inequities through creative expression and increased civic engagement.

One of the first initiatives to emerge from this partnership was Mental Health is Wealth, a high school internship program that empowers youth to manage and advocate for mental health. Interns gain workplace experience while engaging in a wellbeing curriculum designed by the Farley Center and co-taught with artists. Now in its third year, the program continues to integrate evidence-based mental health education with artistic expression, helping interns explore emotional resilience and self-advocacy through the arts.

We invite you to join us in reimagining what health and healing can look like — because real change begins when we act together.

Warmly,

De'Janae' Guillory-Williams, MPH  
Program Manager, Farley Health Policy Center

### Farley Projects

#### Mental Health is Wealth

In addition to serving as a partner in the Mental Health is Wealth internship program, the Farley Center also had the honor of hosting two high school interns this summer. During their time with us, the interns actively engaged in our work while exploring the meaningful connection between arts and health through the program's wellbeing curriculum. The program's final showcase, held on August 9th, created a powerful space for all interns to reflect on their experiences. During the showcase, the two interns placed with the Farley Center shared two key takeaways from their time in the program: a deeper understanding of how public health policy shapes community wellbeing, and a renewed sense of empowerment to confront mental health stigma in their own lives and communities. Their reflections highlight the value of cross-sector collaboration and the importance of creating meaningful opportunities for youth to grow as leaders and advocates for change.

[Watch](#) the interns and workshop facilitators reflect on the summer experience.

**Watch the Video**



#### Legislative Updates

In order to address the decrease in federal funding and the state budget, the Colorado Legislature is having a special session starting August 21st. The Farley Center will be offering an update on the special session on Monday, September 8 from noon to 1. To attend the updates, complete the [Zoom registration form](#). After you receive your confirmation, add meeting details to your calendar to attend. In 2026, regular updates will resume on the fourth Monday of each month January through April, and the third Monday in May. By registering for the special session update, you will also receive information to join regular updates. Questions? E-mail [FarleyHealthPolicyCenter@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:FarleyHealthPolicyCenter@cuanschutz.edu).

### What We're Reading

#### Behavioral Health

[More Coloradans, especially men, are reaching out to the state's mental health crisis line](#) from Colorado Public Radio highlights a significant increase in calls to Colorado's 988 mental health crisis line, with a notable rise in calls from men, and explores how the service's rebranding is contributing to its appeal.

#### Public Health

[How we are failing U.S. children](#) from JAMA describes the drivers behind a recent study finding that infant and child mortality in the United States is about twice that of peer countries.

[2025 is a record year for measles in the U.S.](#) from STAT News highlights the record number of measles cases in the U.S. in 2025, the reasons behind the resurgence, and the role of vaccine hesitancy.

[Stories from the field: The impact of federal funding cuts on population health researchers](#) from Milbank Memorial Fund shares personal accounts from researchers on how federal funding reductions are affecting their work in population health, particularly concerning health equity.

[Restoring the infant mortality rate as a measure of societal health and well-being](#) from the New England Journal of Medicine draws attention to infant mortality as a critical indicator of modern health inequity.

#### Food Access

[In Colorado, food stamps will no longer buy soda, sugary drinks](#) from The Colorado Sun discusses Colorado's recent federal approval to prohibit the use of SNAP benefits for soda and other sugary drinks as part of a broader health initiative.

[Colorado jumps onto lawsuit against USDA over demand for personal information of SNAP recipients](#) from The Colorado Sun details a lawsuit filed by Colorado and other states against the U.S. Department of Agriculture for demanding personal information from SNAP recipients, which the states argue is unlawful.

#### Firearm Injury Prevention

[A lot of kids in Colorado can access a loaded gun, according to a new study](#) from the Colorado Sun summarizes recent research from the Colorado School of Public Health.

[New model policy guide aims to strengthen firearm purchaser licensing laws](#) from Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions introduces a new resource for policymakers that compiles research and guidance to help strengthen firearm purchaser licensing laws.

[New Colorado gun laws challenge Second Amendment protections](#) from The Denver Post examines how new gun laws in Colorado are impacting Second Amendment rights and sparking legal and political debate within the state.

[Could tracking denied gun sales help prevent tragedies? Experts think so](#) from Colorado Public Radio discusses how data from rejected gun sales, which is not currently being synthesized, could be used as a valuable tool for law enforcement to prevent gun violence.

#### 2025 Budget Reconciliation Law

[Colorado tax revenue was especially susceptible to changes in the "big, beautiful bill." Here's why.](#) From the Colorado Sun delves into some of the underlying issues at play leading up to the upcoming special legislative session.

[Implementation dates for 2025 budget reconciliation law](#) from Kaiser Family Foundation provides an easy-to-use dashboard to understand the implementation of this law.

[Colorado hopes a last-second bid will help soften the One Big Beautiful Bill's Medicaid cuts](#) from the Colorado Sun describes the state's application for a "state directed payments program" for extra federal Medicaid funding for health care providers with the goal of expanding access to care and improving the quality of the care.

#### Healthcare Policy & Reform

[Interview with Erin Fuse Brown on the manifestations and effects of corporatization in health care](#) from The New England Journal of Medicine comments on the increasing corporatization of healthcare and its various effects on the system.

[A new strategy emerges to reform health care — ballot measures in multiple states to provide insurance for everyone](#) from Colorado Public Radio reports on a new movement aiming to reform healthcare through state-level ballot measures to establish a single-payer insurance system.

[Colorado's attorney general has sued Trump 33 times since inauguration. So far, he's mostly won.](#) from The Colorado Sun outlines the numerous lawsuits filed by Colorado's Attorney General, Phil Weiser, against the Trump administration on a range of issues, including health care and environmental policy.

**The Farley Center's July health policy journal club discussed Medicare Advantage and potential policy reforms. See all readings available on the [health policy journal club web page](#).**

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Farley's Features is a monthly spotlight on critical and timely health policy issues from the Farley Health Policy Center. We focus on health policy research, translation, implementation, and education. We'd love to hear from you! Reach out to us at [FarleyHealthPolicyCenter@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:FarleyHealthPolicyCenter@cuanschutz.edu) with any questions or comments about Farley's Features and our work in general.



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