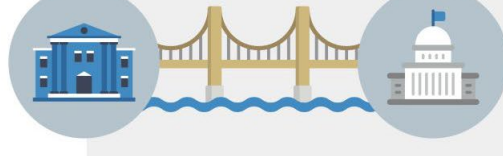




## Farley's Features: December 20

# Bridging research and policy



Welcome to *Farley's Features*, our monthly newsletter from the Farley Health Policy Center focusing on key issues in the health policy space that span primary care, behavioral health, and public health practice. We are a team of medical and behavioral health providers, public health and policy professionals, economists, scientists, educators, and learners. Together, we pursue health policy research, translation, implementation, and education.

### Message from the Farley Center

Dear Alison,

Season's greetings from the Farley Health Policy Center!

We wish you a happy, healthy, and warm holiday season. We look forward to your continued partnership in 2025.

- Cheers from the Farley Center Team



### Our Recent Work: Conversations with Policymakers



The first week of December, the Farley Center hosted the inaugural class of the [National Academy of Medicine State Health Policy Fellowship](#). The fellows met with policymakers, health care leaders, and advocates to discuss mental health, health care access, and health policy innovation. During their jam-packed schedule, they [met with leaders](#) across many Colorado state agencies, health policy non-profits, and the Attorney General's office.

Last Wednesday, the Farley Center completed its third annual educational workshop for Colorado legislators on the health care system in Colorado, *Designing Health Policy*. A bipartisan group of representatives, senators, and their aides heard from Farley Center scholar Kyle Leggott, MD, and State Policy Director Lauren S. Hughes, MD, MPH, MSc, MHCD, FAAFP, on Colorado's health care system and how it is regulated.

### What We're Reading

#### Colorado Health Care System

["Colorado doesn't have enough health care providers — even in Denver. What would it take to fix that?"](#) describes Colorado's statewide shortage of primary care and mental health treatment and proposals to fix it in the Denver Post.

["Colorado might not meet Medicaid provider pay targets 'for the long-term future'"](#) from the Colorado Sun highlights the gap between Colorado's Medicaid payment obligations and what the state can afford.

#### Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Health

NASEM workshop proceedings: [Addressing Workforce Challenges Across the Behavioral Health Continuum](#), provides insights on improving infrastructure to enhance access and quality of mental health services with a focus on advancing health equity.

["Podcast: Thread Unites Community & Combats Childhood Loneliness"](#) Health Affairs podcast on social isolation for young people. Rhea Boyd, MD, MPH, Pediatrician and Child and Public Health Advocate, interviews Sarah Hemminger of Thread about social isolation and wellbeing, particularly for young people. They discuss innovative ways to connect people and achieve transformational change.

#### Firearm Policy

["Red flag laws are still used in Colorado's Second Amendment sanctuaries, just less frequently."](#) spotlights work from our partners at the Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative in the Conversation.

#### National Health Policy: 2024 Election

["How HHS, FDA, and CDC Can Influence U.S. Vaccine Policy."](#) offers a timely description of agency powers with Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s forthcoming nomination as HHS secretary from KFF Health News Policy Watch.

["Washington Power Has Shifted. Here's How the ACA May Shift, Too."](#) from KFF Health News provides a good overview of changes that may occur with the Affordable Care Act.

["With or Without ACA Repeal, ACA and Medicaid Cuts Are Looming"](#) previews health coverage cuts in JAMA Forum.

["Lessons From the Election About Voters and Health"](#) describes how health issues influenced voters during the 2024 election in KFF News.

#### Medicare

["Podcast: Medicare Shared Savings Program Mints \\$2B Win for Value-Based Care w/ Frank McStay."](#) highlights the results of a recent CMS report that explores the impacts of the Medicare Shared Savings Program (MSSP) in 2023 and beyond in a recent Health Affairs podcast.

["Health Care Affordability for Older Adults: How the U.S. Compares to Other Countries."](#) from the Commonwealth Fund compares Medicare to health care in other countries for seniors.

["Medicare Spending was 27% More for People who Disenrolled from Medicare Advantage than for Similar People in Traditional Medicare."](#) from KFF News shares relevant findings as privatizing Medicare is proposed.

#### Health Equity

["More US Pharmacies Closed Than Opened in 2018–21: Independent Pharmacies, Those In Black, Latinx Communities Most At Risk"](#) from Health Affairs shows how market forces are impacting small pharmacies in at-risk communities.

["What to Know Ahead of the Supreme Court Case on Youth Access to Gender Affirming Care."](#) from KFF News previews an upcoming, impactful supreme court case.

The Farley Center's most recent health policy journal club focused on ["Launching Lifelong Health by Improving Health Care for Children, Youth, and Families,"](#) a 2024 NASEM report. See all readings available at the [health policy journal club web page](#).

### Help Us Learn More about Firearm Injury Prevention Strategies in Primary Care

Farley Center scholar Bahroze Rakeen is recruiting participants for his study, "Clinicians' perspectives on interventions for reducing firearm injury in at-risk patients and barriers to implementation" (COMIRB# 24-1583). This research study is designed to learn more about licensed Colorado primary care providers' experience with managing risks of firearm related injuries, awareness of extreme risk protection orders (ERPO), and to identify the range of options providers rely on before considering an ERPO.

If you choose to participate, you will complete an interview as a key informant followed by a brief Qualtrics survey. The interview will last 30-45 minutes. At the end of the interview, participants will be emailed a \$75 digital gift card to thank them for their time and participation. If you are interested, please contact Bahroze Rakeen at [bahroze.rakeen@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:bahroze.rakeen@cuanschutz.edu) by February 1, 2025.

### Legislative Updates to Resume in January

The Farley Center plans to continue to offer monthly legislative updates during the 2025 session from 12:00-1:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday of each month, January through April, and the third Monday in May. These sessions are educational updates about relevant health legislation debated in the 2025 Colorado General Assembly for University and partner institution professionals or students. If you plan to attend, please hold this time on your calendar. If you attended last year, there is no need to register again, you will receive the details when they are available. If you would like to attend for the first time, or a friend or colleague would like to attend, please [register using this form](#).

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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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