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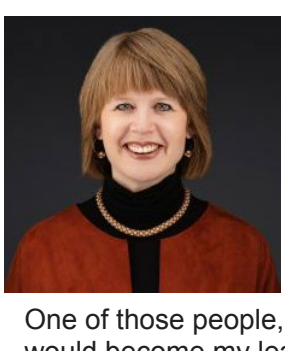
Eugene S. Farley, Jr. Health Policy Center

Farley's Features: May 15

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,

When I served as the Deputy Secretary for Health Innovation for the Pennsylvania Department of Health, I learned so much about health policy innovation and led the development of many critical programs. In doing that work, I appreciated meeting and working with many brilliant and dedicated public servants trying to improve Pennsylvanians' health.

One of those people, then Physician General Rachel Levine, MD, was first my peer and would become my leader when appointed Secretary of Health. She would go on to become the first openly transgender cabinet member confirmed by the Senate when President Biden appointed her U.S. Assistant Secretary of Health, as well as the first openly transgender four-star officer in any uniformed service. She effectively led many efforts in this role, including coordinating the federal COVID-19 response, advocating for adolescent and LGBTQIA+ health, and championing climate change and mental health initiatives.

We're excited to announce that Dr. Levine will give a lecture on primary care and health equity on May 27, followed by a fireside chat with our education director, Daniel Goldberg, JD, PhD. Please see below for additional details and register to attend.

Sincerely,

Lauren S. Hughes, MD, MPH, MSc, MHCDS, FAAFP
State Policy Director

Upcoming Events

Farley Health Policy Center Lecture Series: Admiral Rachel Levine, MD, 17th Assistant Secretary for Health at U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Admiral Rachel Levine, MD, will deliver a lecture, "Primary Care's Role in Improving Health Equity" on Wednesday, May 27 from noon to 1 p.m. in Fulginiti Pavilion and via Zoom (lunch provided with registration for in-person attendees at 11:45 a.m.). The event is co-sponsored by the Department of Family Medicine, and the Public Health Ethics & Law Program. Visit the calendar item for more information and to register to attend.

Following the lecture, Dr. Levine will have a fireside chat with Public Health Ethics and Law Program Director Daniel Goldberg, JD, PhD on law as a social determinant of health. Register separately to attend the fireside chat.

Arts and Policy: Youth Gubernatorial Forum

Cleo Parker Robinson Dance is hosting a youth-led forum at their Center for the Healing Arts Theatre at 2025 N Washington Street, with two Democratic candidates for Colorado Governor: U.S. Senator Michael Bennet and Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 5:30, doors open at 4pm. Hear their responses on issues that matter most to students from George Washington High School's Speech and Debate Team. Register to attend by May 20.

Farley's Legislative Updates

The Farley Health Policy Center offers monthly updates during the Colorado General Assembly. The final Legislative Update is Monday, May 18, 2026 from noon-1 p.m. Register via Zoom to attend. Add the meetings to your calendar using the options included in your confirmation e-mail from Zoom. Questions? E-mail FarleyHealthPolicyCenter@cuanschutz.edu.

Partner Publications

The Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative (FIPI) Three-Year Impact Report documents the initiative's growth into a nationally recognized leader in firearm injury prevention, highlighting major investments in research, education, data infrastructure, and community-centered collaboration that have advanced evidence informed approaches to reducing firearm related harm in Colorado and nationwide.

Continuity of Primary Care in Community Health Centers, a newly published study from the Annals of Family Medicine, examines how continuity of primary care within community health centers changed before, during, and after the COVID 19 pandemic, finding that overall continuity remained high nationwide despite system disruptions. The authors also identify persistent differences by race, ethnicity, clinic size, and use of telehealth, pointing to specific opportunities for targeted interventions to strengthen equitable access to high continuity care for vulnerable populations.

What We're Reading

Public Health

Data on Widespread Vaccine Skepticism May Be Misleading from Medscape examines how the framing and interpretation of new survey data on vaccine hesitancy can exaggerate public resistance and, in doing so, risk reinforcing the very skepticism public health efforts seek to reduce.

Study Suggests That Strategic Wikipedia Engagement Enhances Scientific Visibility, Highlighting New Imperatives for AI-Era Information Access from CU Anschutz News reports on research showing that intentional engagement with Wikipedia can significantly expand the public reach of scientific findings, underscoring the platform's growing importance for knowledge dissemination in the AI era.

I'm Iraqi. I'm Arab. I'm Coloradan — But I Never Had a Box to Check. That's a Public Health Problem. from the Colorado Health Institute blog examines how common data collection and reporting practices in public health can oversimplify complex population differences, potentially limiting the ability of programs and policies to accurately identify needs and measure outcomes.

How Important is Nutrition in Medical School? from STAT's First Opinion Podcast episode, medical students discuss gaps in nutrition education during medical school, reflecting on how limited training in diet and prevention shapes clinical preparedness and the broader emphasis on chronic disease prevention

Health Systems, Coverage & Costs

'Health in All Policies' Is an Effective Governance Framework. Why Have Our Leaders Ignored It? from Health Affairs Forefront outlines strong evidence supporting the 2006 international framework that "all policy is health policy," political fragmentation and short term budget horizons continue to limit its adoption at the state and federal levels.

Farm Bureau Health Plans Beat the ACA on Prices With an Age-Old Tactic: Rejecting Sick People from KFF Health News investigates Farm Bureau plans as cost saving alternatives to ACA coverage while explaining how less expensive premiums come with tradeoffs such as fewer consumer protections, limited benefits, and higher financial risk for enrollees with serious health needs.

A Roadmap for Building and Implementing a Comprehensive State Graduate Medical Education Strategy: Actionable Steps to Align Investments with Workforce Needs from Milbank Memorial Fund outlines a framework for states to more strategically plan, fund, and evaluate GME programs to better align physician training investments with workforce shortages, population health needs, and equity goals.

Behavioral Health & Substance Use

Your New Therapist: Chatty, Leaky, and Hardly Human from KFF Health News explores the rapid rise of AI chatbots marketed as mental health tools, warning that limited regulation, privacy risks, and unproven clinical effectiveness could pose serious dangers to users seeking mental health support.

For Two Decades, Opioids Flooded the San Luis Valley. Medicaid Cuts Now Threaten the Region's Recovery. from The Colorado Sun reports on long standing provider shortages, geographic isolation, and economic strain are complicating recovery efforts in the San Luis Valley, even as local communities pursue treatment access and harm reduction strategies.

"A Punch in the Gut": After Years of Waiting, Many Opioid Victims Will Be Shut Out of Purdue Settlement from ProPublica discusses how a major legal settlement failed to deliver meaningful relief to many individuals and communities harmed by the opioid epidemic.

The Mental Health Toll and Lifelong Consequences of Gun Violence in America from PBS NewsHour explores how exposure to gun violence can affects long-term psychological well being, particularly for children and communities most impacted by gun violence.

The US Supreme Court Ruled Against Colorado's Conversion Therapy Ban. State Lawmakers Aren't Giving Up. from the Colorado Sun reports on how the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to hear a case involving Colorado's ban on conversion therapy for minors could have implications for how states regulate licensed professionals while navigating constitutional constraints.

Colorado Policy & Governance

Effort to Attract Data Centers to Colorado with Tax Incentives Fails: A Compromise Bill Backed by Environment Groups is Still Being Negotiated from the Colorado Sun reports that proposed legislation to regulate AI data centers continues negotiations to balance economic development with growing concerns about water use, energy demand, and infrastructure impacts in Colorado, while a competing bill to provide such centers tax breaks has failed.

Colorado Governor Signs $47 Billion Budget in Which 'Nobody Won' from Colorado Politics details how the final states budget approved by lawmakers closed budget gaps through reductions that are expected to affect health, social services, and higher education.

Sports Betting News: Colorado Senate Passes Consumer Protection Bill from CBS Sports examines a bipartisan Colorado bill that would regulate online sports gambling with the goal to reduce the risk of problem gambling while protecting gamblers' winnings.

Reproductive Health & Rights

Nearly 1 in 4 people seeking abortions out of state chose Illinois. Here's why. from The 19th reports on Illinois growing role as a destination for abortion services amid restrictive policies in surrounding states following the landmark U.S. Supreme Court's 2022 Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision.

Colorado college campus abortion pills bill passes house from the Denver Post highlights proposed legislation that would require higher education institutions with student health centers to make abortion medication available on-site for enrolled students.

Doula Care and Health Outcomes: A Systematic Review from JAMA Network reviews 21 clinical trials to assess the impact of doula care on maternal and infant health, finding that doulas are most consistently associated with reduced maternal anxiety, increased breastfeeding initiation, and improved postpartum follow up, though additional research is needed to clarify effects across diverse populations.

Menopause coverage bills meet mixed fates in state legislatures from News From The States provides an overview of legislation across multiple states seeking to expand insurance coverage for menopause related care, highlighting uneven progress driven by differences in cost concerns, political priorities, and approaches to women's health policy.

The Farley Center's May health policy journal club compared international health care delivery systems. This month's readings highlighted different approaches to providing and financing health care delivery in low/middle income countries as well as high income countries. See all readings available at the health policy journal club web page.

Subscribe to Farley's Features

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 with any questions or comments about Farley's Features and our work in general.

Farley Center Website | **Contact Us**

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