



November 22, 2024

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,

In a time of uncertainty due to the divisiveness in our country, I'm grateful to turn inward and lean on the wisdom of my colleagues. Last week, we had both our fall Steering Committee meeting and our annual full-day retreat with 21 members of our faculty, staff, and learners.

As I looked around the Zoom, and then two days later, around the room, I was filled with gratitude for the incredible people that make up the Farley Health Policy Center—smart and compassionate individuals committed to our work to achieve more equitable health.

As we enter the holiday season, I am reminded that gratitude is more than a feeling of appreciation-- it is also a practice. [Practicing gratitude](#) can improve sleep, mood, and immunity and decrease depression, anxiety, chronic pain, and risk of disease. Enormous benefits for a relatively small effort. If you were to flip open my journal, among my professional gratitude list you would find:

1. I am grateful to work with psychologists who offered resources to manage election night stress.
2. I am grateful for center leadership who remind us of the important policy work that lies ahead and, most importantly, not to let uncertainty paralyze us.
3. I am grateful for coworkers who make me laugh and find moments of levity among the chaos.

Our strength lies in our people, and that includes each of you. Thank you for being part of the Farley Health Policy Center's past, present, and future. I hope you enjoy this edition of Farley's Features.

Emma

Emma Gilchrist, MPH (she/her)
Deputy Director, Farley Health Policy Center

P.S. As you make your year-end giving, [consider supporting our work](#).

What We're Reading

Primary care practice

["The Failing Experiment of Primary Care as For-Profit Enterprise"](#) in Health Affairs features voices we know and respect on how profit motives impact the delivery of primary care services.

["Launching Lifelong Health by Improving Health Care for Children Youth, and Families,"](#) is a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) report which calls for us "to reverse troubling trends in the health and wellbeing of child, adolescent, and young adult populations" by improving health care for children.

In ["Ending Inequities in Health Care,"](#) the APHA executive director discusses the new National Academies report "Ending Unequal Treatment: Strategies to Achieve Equitable Health Care and Optimal Health for All."

Behavioral health

["Methadone's Moment,"](#) a viewpoint article in JAMA on health and the 2024 election, points out that despite America's worsening opioid crisis, "only 25% of people who meet diagnostic criteria for opioid use disorder (OUD) receive lifesaving medications such as buprenorphine and methadone."

["The recovery community says it offers refuge from opioid addiction. But it's still hostile to lifesaving addiction medications"](#) is Stat's fifth article in its series, the [War on Recovery](#), on the addiction recovery community's hostility toward medications such as buprenorphine and methadone.

In [a recent episode of the podcast "Speak our Minds,"](#) hosted by former steering committee member Heidi Baskfield, Senator Barbara Kirkmeyer shares her thoughts on reforming the youth mental health care system in the state of Colorado.

After the election

The Farley Center's most recent health policy journal club focused on the 2024 U.S. election. See all readings available at the [health policy journal club web page](#).

Nationally, ["How Health Care Could Change Under the New Trump Administration"](#) is an NPR analysis on forthcoming health care changes with the re-election of President Trump and forthcoming appointment of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to his cabinet.

In Colorado, voters approved an [excise tax for guns and ammunition](#) and [constitutional protections for abortion care](#). Denver voters [approved a tax increase](#) to fund Denver Health.

["Project 2025's Labor And Reproductive Health Policies: Implications For The Health Workforce"](#) is a Health Affairs piece describing how Project 2025, the conservative strategic blueprint for the next decade, could impact those of us working in health care.

["Trump's White House Return Poised To Tangle Health Care Safety Net,"](#) a KFF Health News blog, describes potential changes to safety net health care in the United States with president Trump's second term.

Our recent work highlight: Standing Committee on Primary Care



Lauren S. Hughes, MD, MPH, MSc, MHCDS, State Policy Director for the Farley Health Policy Center, has co-chaired three public meetings of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Standing Committee on Primary Care. May, September, and November, public meetings delved into discussions on primary care payment, workforce, and research policies, with the goal of advising

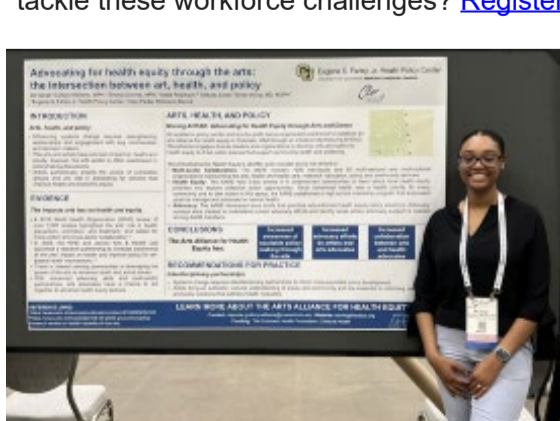
the Initiative for Strengthening Primary Care, a coordinated federal effort across the Departments of Health and Human Services, Veterans Affairs, and Agriculture. In early August, the committee published a [response to the Pay PCPs Act of 2024 Request for Information](#). The original RFI, released by Senators Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island and Bill Cassidy, MD, of Louisiana, aims to create new hybrid payments for primary care, reduce cost-sharing for certain primary care services for Medicare beneficiaries, and establish a new technical advisory committee to inform primary care payment rates more accurately. In September, the committee released its [response to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services request for information regarding its proposed rule changes](#) for primary care payment and advanced primary care management services under the physician fee schedule for CY2025. Dr. Hughes co-authored both RFI responses along with Dr. Stephanie Gold, scholar in the Farley Health Policy Center and James C. Puffer, MD/American Board of Family Medicine Fellow in the National Academy of Medicine. Visit the [committee's webpage](#) to learn more and find the reports referenced above.

Events, Trainings, and Conferences

Lauren S. Hughes, MD, MPH, MSc, MHCDS, State Policy Director for the Farley Health Policy Center, will be a keynote speaker at the Virtual Third National Primary Care Registration Summit, which will take place online December 3-6, 2024. [Register and learn more](#).

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine will host a forum on mental health and substance use disorders on December 5, "Effective Models to Address Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders: Strategies for Successful and Equitable Abatement Using Opioid Settlement Dollars," [learn more and register](#).

The New England Journal of Medicine is sponsoring a virtual expert panel, "Health Care Workforce Innovation: Solutions to the Staffing Crisis" on December 11 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. MST. The health care workforce is in crisis, with staffing shortages impacting care worldwide and clinician burnout remaining a persistent issue. How can organizations tackle these workforce challenges? [Register to learn more and attend](#).



The Farley Center has been taking our work on the road. Our team members have presented at the American Public Health Association (APHA) conference, American Psychological Association (APA) conference, North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) meeting, Public Health in the Rockies, and the Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice's interdisciplinary symposium, Coming Together for Action. Topics have included policy mapping, strategic dissemination, firearms research, advocating for health equity through the arts, and more

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



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