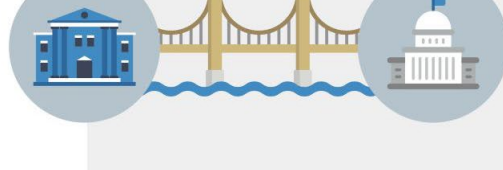




Farley's Features: October 24

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,

October 10 was World Mental Health Day, a reminder of the importance of mental health across nations, governments, and communities. For us, the annual observance had special resonance following my participation in the annual World Organization of Family Physicians (WONCA) world conference in Lisbon, Portugal last month.

Since 2020, we've partnered with the WONCA Working Party on Mental Health to lead the WONCA Integrated Care Leadership & Advocacy Program, a program for early career family physicians to learn and practice the skills to integrate behavioral health care and to become advocates for systems change in their local areas. To date, 20 family physicians from 16 countries have successfully completed the program.

What a joy it was to spend time with colleagues and program alumni after years of virtual collaboration! We shared our curriculum, evaluation outcomes, and lessons learned in presentations and workshops. Our advocacy and leadership workshop had more than 80 attendees. Participants shared many examples of how they are advancing behavioral health care within their own clinics and systems and developing policy and advocacy leaders. The collective energy and commitment to improve access to behavioral health care was inspiring. Next for our program -- we are launching a community of practice for networking and continued learning. We also continue to seek funding for the next cohort of the program.

Best,

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

Recent Work and Publications



American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Plenary Presentation

Our Executive Director, Shale Wong, MD, MSPH, presented on the benefits of the arts to improve youth mental health for her plenary session at the 2025 AAP National Conference & Exhibition on September 28. During her presentation, "Elevating the Arts to Improve Youth Mental Health," Dr. Wong presented with two local high-schoolers who participated in the Mental Health is Wealth (MHiW) internship.

Cami Contreras, a 12th-grader at the Denver School of Science and Technology, recited a poem about her arts experience over music composed by Delaun Willis, an 11th-grader at the Denver School of the Arts, earning a standing ovation from the more than 1,000 attendees. Read [the news item from the AAP](#).

Happy Birthday to Farley's Features!

After Linda Niebauer retired, Friday's Features, which she had steadfastly edited and sent for years, transitioned to Farley's Features, the first issue of which was sent October 25th of last year. Thank you for reading and subscribing: please forward to friends and colleagues you think may be interested!

NASEM Standing Committee Meeting

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) [Standing Committee on Primary Care held a public meeting on September 25](#). Farley Center State Policy Director Lauren Hughes co-chairs this committee, and Farley Center scholar Stephanie Gold serves as a consultant on the committee. The meeting had three expert panels, two focused on recent Standing Committee publications and one on beneficiary incentives in primary care:

- Response to the CMS 2026 Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment and Coverage Policies Proposed Rule
- Building a Workforce to Develop and Sustain Interprofessional Primary Care Teams: Reactions from the field
- CMS Innovation Center Strategy and Beneficiary Incentives: What does the evidence say?

Partner Event



[Learn more and register](#), in person attendance registration deadline is November 6.

What We're Reading

Behavioral Health

[Young adult suicide rate spiked in Colorado from 2014 to 2024](#) from Axios Denver provides a sobering reality check following recent news of declining youth suicide rates in Colorado.

This month the American Academy of Pediatrics released their [Early Childhood Development and Screen Time Toolkit](#) with useful research and recommendations for parents and caregivers of young children.

[Kids who use social media score lower on reading and memory tests, a study shows](#) from NPR highlights further concerning evidence related to social media and mental wellbeing.

Public Health and Injury Prevention

[Colorado looks to wastewater testing to detect measles infections before they show up at the clinic](#) describes a recent outbreak in Mesa County in which early detection gave public health officials more advanced notice to respond.

[Wary of RFK Jr., Colorado started revamping its vaccine policies in the spring](#) from KFF Health News and Colorado Public Radio gives more details on Colorado's efforts to make vaccines available through pharmacies.

[Cervical cancer could be eradicated. But not with Medicaid cuts and anti-vax politics](#), from the 19th describes how political setbacks in the areas of reproductive health care, vaccine trust, and sex education could increase cervical cancer.

Federal Health Policy

[These scientists were working on life-saving cures. Trump defunded their research](#), is a five-minute video from New York Times Opinion on the devastating impacts of NIH program cuts.

[Which congressional districts could see the greatest ACA premium payment increases?](#) From KFF Health News features a dashboard showing potential ACA premium increases in your local area.

[RFK Jr.'s new dietary guidelines could be controversial. Here's what to watch for](#) from NPR forecasts a radical departure from approaches taken in years past.

[States are cutting Medicaid provider payments long before Trump cuts hit](#) from NPR describes an environment in which states are scrambling to close budget shortfalls and are eyeing Medicaid cuts to do so.

[The science of health: Pediatric research that should have been in the MAHA report](#) from Nature provides public comment from friend of the Farley Center David Keller, MD, on behalf of the Pediatric Policy Council in response to the MAHA Commission's assessment of the root causes of chronic disease in children.

Health Care Policy & Reform

[1 in 5 babies start prenatal care late amid Colorado's shortage in providers](#) from the Denver Post shows some of the impact of the shortage of rural pregnancy care providers.

[California's nursing shortage is getting worse. Front-line workers blame management](#). From KFF news describes an impending crisis in filling the need for nurses.

[Structural and scientific racism, science, and health — Evidence versus ideology](#) from the New England Journal of Medicine features a 10 minute interview with Nancy Krieger, a professor of social epidemiology at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

Colorado Election

[Proposition MM explained: Colorado would increase taxes on high earners to fund school meals, food stamps](#) from the Colorado Sun provides details on an upcoming ballot initiative in this year's election.

[CPR News' voter guide to the 2025 November election](#) provides useful explainers and balanced reporting to help Colorado voters this fall.

The Farley Center's October health policy journal club covered pharmaceutical policy, with a focus on the behind-the-scenes role of pharmaceutical benefit managers and drug price negotiation. 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.



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