



## Farley's Features: March 21

# 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 the federal policy landscape rapidly shifts, we are deeply attentive and concerned to see executive, legislative, and judicial branches relitigate critical solutions to our greatest problems, including how we sustain progress toward health equity.

We at the Farley Center continue to recognize that policy is an essential lever for improving systems that impact equitable health outcomes. With this in mind, we proudly announce the second lecture in our inaugural health policy lecture series, this time focusing on the political determinants of health.

We look forward to seeing you on April 10, noon to 1 p.m. when we will welcome renowned scholar and attorney Daniel Dawes, J.D., to give a virtual-only lecture titled "Scorching irony: How we can leverage the political determinants of health." [Learn more and register.](#)

Be well,

**Shale**

Shale Wong, MD, MSPH  
Executive Director

### Recent Publications

The Farley Center team has several recent publications relevant for those interested in health policy, detailed below.

#### National Academies Report Detailing Priorities to Improve Primary Care for All

In 2024, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine was tasked with convening a committee to examine the current process and data inputs used by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to evaluate primary care in the Physician Fee Schedule. Additionally, the committee outlined alternative methodologies for data collection and potential sources of input to more accurately capture the time, intensity, and complexity of the work required to deliver high-quality primary care. This committee included State Policy Director Lauren S. Hughes, MD, MPH, MSc, MHCDS, FAAFP, and Scholar Stephanie Gold, MD.

The resulting report, *Improving Primary Care Valuation Processes to Inform the Physician Fee Schedule*, makes specific recommendations for CMS, to address the systemic flaws currently affecting primary care professionals and limiting the potential of high-quality primary care services for all. Director of Operations, Mark Gritz, PhD, served as a reviewer for the report. [Learn more and access the report.](#)

#### Colorado Primary Care Payment Reform Collaborative

The Colorado Primary Care Payment Reform Collaborative (PCPRC) has published its Sixth Annual Recommendations Report, offering strategic insights into the evolving landscape of primary care. This report examines marketplace dynamics, artificial intelligence, and advancing health equity within primary care delivery. Thank you to PCPRC member and State Policy Director Lauren S. Hughes, MD, MPH, MSc, MHCDS, FAAFP for her contributions! [Access the full report.](#)

#### Practice-Based Research Networks

"Looking Back to Move Forward: Reflections of Practice-based Research Networks (PBRNs)," a new article in the Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine by Larry Green, Linda Niebauer, Frank M. Reed, Ned Calonge, C. J. Peek, Paul A. Nutting, John Hickner, Wilson D. Pace, and Jennifer Carroll. This article offers a collective account of observed patterns & dilemmas, providing a roadmap for future PBRNs. Essential reading for those in primary care research! [Read the full publication.](#)

#### Study on Immigration Status Related to Medical Care

Our affiliate faculty member, Apoorva Ram, MD, published "[The Experience of Undocumented Individuals Denied Stem Cell Transplant for Hematologic Malignancies](#)" in the Journal of General Internal Medicine. Other authors were Haley M. Simpson, MD, PhD; Manisha Dubey, BS; Katya Feldman, BA; and Lilia Cervantes, MD.

### What We're Reading

#### Colorado General Assembly

[270 Colorado kids ran from foster care and treatment centers in one year. Now lawmakers are talking about a fence.](#) In this article, the Colorado Sun describes two pieces of legislation currently being debated to keep children and teens from running away from residential treatment centers and foster care.

[Colorado House passes bill prohibiting hidden housing fees charged by landlords](#) from the Denver Post covers House Bill 1090, which generally requires fee transparency and bans other costs common in apartments.

[Colorado bill restricting sale of certain semiautomatic guns clears first House committee after notable tweaks](#) from the Colorado Sun describes an amendment made to Senate Bill 3.

[Colorado's free school meals program is again on shaky ground — and lawmakers may ask voters to rescue it](#) from the Denver Post describes two ballot questions being discussed to pay for shortfalls in the free school meals program.

#### Health Care Policy

In [Texas won't study how its abortion ban impacts women, so we did](#), reporters from ProPublica found large increases in maternal mortality and sepsis among Texas women after the state's abortion ban passed.

[Federal Medicaid cuts could shift \\$44.3B in costs to expansion states](#) from Healthcare Dive describes federal discussions aimed at punishing cost shifts for states that expanded Medicaid.

[KFF health tracking poll February 2025: the public's views on potential changes to Medicaid](#) showed strong national support for Medicaid and opposition to cutting funding for it.

[Five states leading efforts to increase primary care spending](#), a report from the Milbank Memorial Fund, describes approaches in five pioneering states to better primary care.

[Why now is the time to create a patient-first healthcare system](#), from Forbes, dives into some of the sentiments from people about just how dissatisfied they are with our health care system, and what health care leaders can learn from this.

#### Health Equity

[All the ways Trump wants to exclude trans people from public life](#) from the 19th summarizes President Trump's executive orders impacting trans Americans, from passports to schools to health care.

[The R-word is back. But why?](#) From NPR's podcast, It's Been a Minute, features disability advocate Imani Barbarin's break down on how ableism can take root in casual conversation, and why words matter.

[2024 U.S. national survey on the mental health of LGBTQ+ young people by state](#), a report from the Trevor Project, uses data from more than 18,000 LGBTQ+ young people ages 13-24 across the United States in 2024 to describe suicide risk and anxiety and depression among this population by state.

[Why this year's flu season is the worst in more than a decade](#) from Scientific American reports that rates of hospitalizations and outpatient visits for influenza are at a 15-year high.

#### Mental Health

[Implementation of Kendra's Law continues to be severely biased](#), a report from New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, describes how involuntary mental health treatment (in accordance with the New York law) was no more effective than voluntary treatment and was implemented in a racially biased manner.

[How psychiatrists are helping pregnant and postpartum patients in Colorado](#) from the Colorado Sun covers a new program, launched in September 2023, that utilizes psychiatrists to provide better care and improve health outcomes for pregnant patients and new mothers.

#### Federal Transition

[CDC invites back about 180 fired employees, including some who help fight outbreaks](#) from Stat reports that about 180 probationary employees at the CDC were rehired.

[Colorado, seven other states sue Trump administration after abrupt end to teacher training grants](#) from the Colorado Sun describes the multi-state lawsuit in response to the U.S. Department of Education's abrupt decision to no longer fund grant programs that support teacher training programs.

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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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