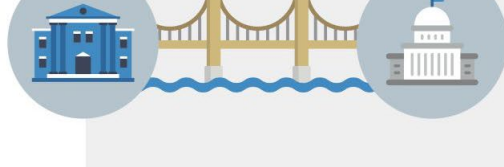




Farley's Features: May 16

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,

People across the country are struggling to access primary care. Practices face challenges in recruiting and retaining providers. These workforce shortages are driven by large and pervasive issues plaguing primary care, including historic underfunding relative to other specialties and a reliance on fee-for-service payment.

Payment reform is critical to improving primary care and the health care system. Farley Center research and products have covered key issues in payment reform over the past decade. A few weeks ago, we published the results of our latest project, which focused on state policies to advance primary care payment reform [in the commercial sector](#). With recent federal [cuts to primary care APM demonstration projects](#), state work is more important than ever.

Our research examines five states that are advancing primary care APM policy for the commercial sector, with the goal of better supporting the foundation of the health care system. Insights from these states provide useful takeaways and points of caution for others beginning this work. We encourage you to share widely with primary care policymakers and champions.

Stephanie

Stephanie Gold, M.D.

Recent Publications

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

Denver Gazette Guest Opinion: Federal Medicaid cuts threaten state's rural health

Farley Center researchers Lauren S. Hughes, M.D., MPH, MSc, MHCDS and Liza Creel, PhD, in collaboration with Kevin Stansbury, CEO of Lincoln Community Hospital and Care Center, authored a recent op-ed in the Denver Gazette. This piece addresses the potential devastation that proposed federal Medicaid cuts could inflict upon the already fragile healthcare systems serving rural Colorado communities. Drawing on their expertise in rural healthcare delivery and policy, the authors underscore the essential role of Medicaid in sustaining rural hospitals, the economic consequences of hospital closures, and the subsequent loss of access to crucial medical services for rural populations. Their analysis serves as a call to action for state and federal policymakers to protect this lifeline for over a million Coloradans. [Read the full piece to understand the local impact.](#)

A State Policy Playbook for Advancing Primary Care Payment Reform in the Commercial Sector

The Farley Health Policy Center conducted research, funded by Arnold Ventures, to better understand how states can advance primary care payment reform in the commercial sector. Farley Center scholar Stephanie Gold, MD led the project with contributors Lauren S. Hughes, M.D., MPH, MSc, MHCDS; Kyle Leggott, M.D.; Sarah Hemeida, M.D., MPH; Lakshmi Karra, M.D., MPH; and Apoorva Ram, M.D. The team conducted interviews with 50 experts across five states to develop a step-by-step policy playbook for state legislators, regulators, and other primary care champions looking to do this work. Read more [in the playbook](#) or [the full report](#).

Questions? Reach out to Stephanie.Gold@cuanschutz.edu.

Partner Publications

University of Colorado Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative 2024-2025 Annual Report: "From All Angles"

The University of Colorado Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative (FIPI) released their 2024-2025 annual report, "From All Angles." This comprehensive report details FIPI's multifaceted approach to addressing firearm injury prevention, encompassing research, community engagement, and policy advocacy. This report is a valuable resource for medical professionals, public health experts, and academic researchers working to reduce firearm-related harm. [Access the full report here.](#)

Upcoming Events

Monday: Final Legislative Update

The 2025 Colorado General Assembly concluded last Wednesday, May 7. The legislative strategy team has been providing monthly legislative updates all session. The final update reviewing the session will take place Monday, May 19 from noon to 1 p.m. [Join here.](#)

Levitt Distinguished Speaker Series

Join the University of Colorado's Department of Family Medicine and fellow healthcare colleagues for: "Neurophysiological signatures of minoritized stress and the promise of novel neurostimulation approaches for stress relief," presented by Negar Fani, PhD, ABPP. On Wednesday, June 25, Dr. Fani will discuss neural, physiological and behavioral adaptations to chronic marginalization, novel mind-body neurostimulation methods for stress relief and their implementation in marginalized communities. [Learn more and register.](#)

What We're Reading

Colorado General Assembly: Budget

[Colorado lawmakers warn financial woes are just beginning as Gov. Jared Polis signs \\$44B budget](#) from Colorado Politics covers the governor's signing of the state budget and highlights several budget items such as: Health School Meals for All, public universities tuition increases, and legislator salaries.

[Colorado lawmakers may convene special session to address potential Medicaid cuts](#) from The Colorado Sun reports on the possibility of a special legislative session regarding Medicaid and potential federal cuts.

Colorado General Assembly: Bills

[Colorado legislature declines to override Jared Polis' veto of social media bill after House caves](#) from The Colorado Sun details the legislature's failed efforts to override a gubernatorial veto.

[Opinion: What's at stake for people with disabilities as Colorado lawmakers debate HB25-1017](#) from The Colorado Sun analyses of a bill concerning funding for disability services in Colorado. [This bill passed](#) and was sent to the governor May 12.

[101 bills debated by the Colorado legislature in 2025 that you need to know about](#) from the Colorado Sun provides a succinct summary of the 2025 general assembly's most impactful bills.

Federal Transition:

[What The Health? - Episode 394: Medicaid Cuts, Budget Fights, and the Trump Agenda](#) from KFF Health News is a podcast discussing potential Medicaid cuts and the federal budget under the Trump administration.

[Trump HHS eliminates office that sets poverty levels tied to benefits for at least 80 million people](#) from KFF Health News details the elimination of the HHS office responsible for federal poverty guidelines.

[Public Awareness of Threats to Public Health and Science](#) from Milbank Quarterly – Opinion details results from a survey gauging public understanding of recent changes in public health and science, such as National Institute of Health (NIH) funding cuts.

[EvidenceNOW: AHRQ's Innovative Investment in Primary Care is Vital to Achieve U.S. Health Goals](#), an Academy Health blog post, makes the case that the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)'s Evidence NOW program is critical and should not be cut.

Health Policy:

['Dead Zone': Rural hospitals grapple with outdated internet, creating disconnect with rest of health care](#) from KFF Health News investigates the impact of poor internet access on rural healthcare.

[2020 Vs. 2025: What's Different and the Same in Health Policy - Our 200th Episode!](#) from the Health Affairs podcast takes a look back at the health care world of 2020 and discusses what has changed in terms of COVID-19, vaccinations, telehealth, and more.

[Americans' trust in medicine is declining. But doctors can still turn it around.](#) From the Boston Globe features Farley steering committee member Andrew Bazemore, MD's quote about patient trust, "It's one of the most powerful tools of medicine, frankly, and if you don't have it, no number of drugs, devices, or other interventions are going to achieve much."

Behavioral Health & Substance Use:

[Colorado integrated behavioral health plus \(CIBH+\): aligning behavioral health within a generalist approach to primary care](#) from Frontiers in Psychology is a research article on integrating behavioral health in Colorado primary care settings.

[How Alcohol Taxes Save Lives](#) from NYT Opinion covers the argument for increasing alcohol taxes in a less than five-minute video.

[The IARC Perspective on the Effects of Policies on Reducing Alcohol Consumption](#) from The New England Journal of Medicine is a special report on alcohol policy interventions from the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

The Farley Center's April health policy journal club continued analysis of the evolving health care landscape under the Trump Administration. They examined potential Medicaid changes affecting access and coverage, shifts in public health initiatives relevant to clinical practice, the ongoing restructuring of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), medical research funding mechanisms, and policies impacting the health of global and immigrant communities. 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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