



Eugene S. Farley, Jr. Health Policy Center
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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Editor: Linda Niebauer



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

We in the Farley Health Policy Center are pleased to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website that reflects the focus and evolution of our policy activities over the past few years, including our publications, reports and briefs. [You can check it out here.](#)

Reclaim and reconstitute the intellectual foundations of primary care, that is the vision of the Larry A. Green Center. Check out the latest in COVID-19 [survey results here.](#)



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[*'I Lost Weeks of My Life'* Young Colorado Woman Pleads with Others to Take COVID-19 Seriously](#) is a story by Alan Gionet for *CBS Denver* about a 19 year-old woman who had COVID-19, and her warnings about her experience and words of warning to others.

[*Denver Health, the city's 'safety net' hospital, preps for more coronavirus patients and staff shortages before and after Thanksgiving*](#) is a story in *Denverite* by David Sachs about how Denver Health's threats of a shortage of workers and a rise in coronavirus cases that could spike after Thanksgiving. The good news...when compared to the first wave in the spring, a smaller percentage of patients need the intensive care unit this time around.

[*COVID-19 Has Moved Bioethics from the Classroom into Everyday Life*](#) is a podcast, CU Anschutz 360 COVID Reflections, featuring Dr. Matthew Wynia who offers ideas about who gets a ventilator, who gets a vaccine, how we

decide.

[*ECHO Colorado Joins New Nationwide Initiative to Fight COVID-19 in Nursing Homes*](#) is a story about a program supported by AHRQ, IHI and Project ECHO. ECHO Colorado is participating to keep the virus from entering nursing homes, prevent it from spreading, provide safe and appropriate care, and reduce social isolation for residents and staff.



[*'I don't want to compete with this disease': What physician-assisted death is like for a family*](#) is a story on *Today* by Meghan Holohan who writes about a woman's essay to her children about their grandmother's experience to help them and others learn about physician-assisted dying.

[*We're working to secure affordable prescriptions for every New Mexican*](#) is a post on *New Mexico CAP* about a coalition created to fight for fair, affordable prescription drugs.

[*The Biden coronavirus task force has a mental health problem*](#) is an opinion piece by Drs. Jack Turban and Jessica Gold, psychiatrists, for *The Hill* who talk about the hope Biden's election offers, but are concerned that mental health is not listed as one of the four crises that the Biden administration indicates they plan to tackle.

[*Beyond burnout: For health care workers, this surge of COVID-19 is bringing burnover*](#) is an opinion piece by Wendy Dean and Simon G. Talbot on *STAT* about how health care workers are left to manage in the ensuing chaos feeling disposable, devalued, and demoralized.

[*Mental health issues caused by COVID-19 lay heavy on Tennesseans*](#) is an opinion piece by Dr. Ben Miller for the *Tennessean* who stresses the importance of all doing what's in their realm to make a difference because short of that, the \$7.2 million federal grant awarded the state will be wasted.

[*Balancing Lower U.S. Prescription Drug Prices and Innovation – Part 1*](#) is a post on the *Health Affairs Blog* by Steven M. Lieberman and colleagues that provides the background for why U.S. drug prices are higher than in other developed countries, and summarizes the relationship of drug prices and innovation as well as limitation of the current U.S. market-based approach to drug pricing.

[*Innovative solutions to address the mental health crisis: Shifting away from police as first responders*](#) is a Brookings report by Stuart M. Butler and Nehath Sheriff, which discusses solutions being implemented around the country and the challenges faced.

[*Unequal treatment for mental health care brings \\$595K in fines for 2 Delaware insurance companies*](#) is a story by Brittany Horn for *Delaware on Line* about fines lodged against insurance companies found to offer disparate care relative

to behavioral and mental health coverage.



[*Colorado researchers are gathering data on coronavirus survivors. Here's what they've found.*](#) Is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Michael Booth and Jennifer Brown about a long-term study from UHealth that showed that long-lasting symptoms include brain fog, muscle pain, blood clots and mental illness.

[*Data and Safety Monitoring Boards: The Safeguards Behind COVID-19 Vaccines*](#) is an article in *Very Well Health* by Fran Kritz with these key takeaways: vaccines are being reviewed by experts during development, at least two vaccine trials were paused and then restarted while experts reviewed side effects that occurred in patients, and a Black physicians' association and at least two governors have set up their own independent vaccine review committees to review data on the safety and effectiveness of authorized vaccines.

[*Rural hospitals are under siege from COVID-19 – here's what doctors are facing, in their own words*](#) is a story in *The Conversation* by Drs. Lauren Hughes (Farley Center's Director of State Policies) and Jennifer Bacani McKenney about how small rural hospitals across the country are struggling to find enough space, staff and supplies.

[*Acute social isolation evokes midbrain craving responses similar to hunger*](#) is an article in *Nature Neuroscience* by Livia Tomova and colleagues who set out to determine if functional MRI could measure neural responses evoked by food and social cues after participants experienced 10 hours of mandated fasting or total social isolation.

[*Pandemic's toll on mental health accentuated in cities*](#) is an NBC story by Kanwal Syed and Naitian Zhou with data graphics that report how anxiety and depression in the various states compare to the rest of the country.

[*The human costs of the pandemic: Is it time to prioritize well-being?*](#) is a Brookings report by Carol Graham that suggests that the emotional costs of the pandemic to the poor and vulnerable deepen pre-existing inequities in well-being in the United States and many other countries.

[*Getting the Price Right: How Some Countries Control Spending in a Fee-for-Service System*](#) is an article in *Health Affairs* by Michael K. Gusmano and colleagues who compare policies in three high-income countries and describe how payers and physicians engage in structured fee negotiations and standardize prices in systems where fee-for-service is the main model of outpatient physician reimbursement.



MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[*Physician-Public Defender Collaboration – A New Medical-Legal Partnership*](#) is a special article in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by Dr. Rahul Vanjani and colleagues about a new kind of MLP that aims to reduce harm to patients' health.

[*Improving Health Equity through Medical-Legal Partnerships*](#) is an AHA issue brief that discusses how medical-legal partnerships can support vulnerable populations, and highlights case examples and resources.



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