



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

Dr. Fred Thomas, friend and colleague of the Farley Health Policy Center, has been named Director of Population Health, Telemedicine, and Innovative Care Delivery. In this role he will focus on building and supporting a range of population health-oriented virtual care initiatives that will reduce costs, improve outcomes and build additional bridges with Children's Hospital Colorado's primary care partners and other healthcare stakeholders. Congratulations, Fred.

[The Curve: A Special COVID-19 Edition of the Human Touch](#) a journal of poetry, prose and visual art...a brainchild of a handful of Colorado medical students and faculty that provided a place to express concerns, memorialize experiences, and send messages of hope and healing during the pandemic.

[A Path Forward: Thriving in Rural Health Care after COVID-19](#) is the title of the April 28th noon to 1PM Levitt Distinguished Speaker presentation by Benjamin Anderson, the Vice President of Rural Health Hospitals, Colorado Hospital Association. He will discuss challenges faced by rural Colorado clinicians during the pandemic as well as share stories of resiliency. Benjamin and Dr. Lauren Hughes led production of a toolkit and playbook, ["Re-imagining Leadership: A Pathway for Rural Health to Thrive in a COVID-19 World."](#)

[Emotional and Mental Health in Older Adults Spring 2021 Webinar Series: Building Resiliency for Healthier Aging](#) is a series that provides strategies and resources for mental and emotional well-being for older adults that began April 15th and will run through May 6th sponsored by the CU Anschutz Multidisciplinary Center on Aging and the UCCS Aging Center.

[Advancing Integrated Behavioral Health and Primary Care: Persistent Challenges and Potential Solutions](#) is a webinar sponsored by the Network for Excellence in Health Innovations May 20th, 11:30AM-2PM MT that promises a discussion among a panel of experts (including colleague, Ben Miller) on integration issues to explore how to build on key areas of agreement to

highlight and promote critical first steps.

If you haven't checked out the Larry A. Green Center website of late relative to COVID survey data, [click here for what's new](#). The next clinician survey will be available May 7th.



[Vaccinate for Yourself, Your Family, and Your Community](#) is a YouTube video produced by the University of Colorado Department of Family Medicine to encourage all to get vaccinated.

[Legitimacy and Public Health](#) is an opinion piece on the *Milbank Quarterly* by Joshua M. Sharfstein who writes about how the legitimacy of public health has fallen into doubt amid the most significant public health crisis in a century. The author suggests responding to this existential crisis requires a strong case and advocacy for what we, as a society, do collectively.

[Colorado saw a nearly 'nonexistent influenza season' this year thanks to COVID-19 safety measures](#) is a 9News story by Marc Salinger who reports on how masks, the social distancing, and handwashing didn't just keep us safe from COVID-19, but from seasonal influenza as well.

[Reduced Student Exposure to FM Poses Threat to Workforce](#) is a story posted on the AAFP site by Drs. Melissa Johnson, Cleveland Piggott and Mark Deutchman who write about efforts needed to prevent losing potential family physicians during the pandemic.

[We can't control crises, but we can control our response. Here's how.](#) is this week's Mental Health 411 newsletter from Ben Miller who writes "we're not doing something right...people are dying."

[Kids Returning to School after Isolation with Mental Health Concerns](#) is a piece posted on *Idea Stream* by Anna Huntsman about how school counselors and health care workers have had to adjust their services to meet many, unique new student needs.

[Barbers, artists help defy vaccine myths for people of color](#) is an AP story by Julie Watson and Anita Snow about how these folks are setting about to bust vaccine myths in their arenas.

No cost COVID resources for uninsured individuals can be found on [HHS.gov](#), including testing, treatment, and vaccines.

[Loneliness is rampant. A simple call or hug may be a cure](#) is an AP News story by Lindsey Tanner and Martha Irvine about the critical role a Chicago hospital's "friendly caller" program is playing for people who are experiencing isolation and loneliness.

[Mental Health Takes Center Stage as Pandemic Devastates Nashville's Live](#)

[Music Scene](#) is an NPR story by Blake Farmer who writes about how mental health is always a factor in a creative world, such as Nashville, but that the pandemic has taken these and other problems to a whole new level.



POLICY EFFORTS

[Financing U.S. health care to invest in the future](#) is a 30-minute podcast sponsored by *3M Inside Angle*, featuring Dr. Rebecca Etz, anthropologist/associate professor of family medicine and population health at VCU and Farley Center partner, who discusses how outdated health care finance policies don't necessarily help people be well, prevent disease, or avoid a hospital stay.

[Meeting the Moment: Policy Changes to Strengthen SNAP and Improve Health](#) is a post on *The Milbank Quarterly* by Julia A. Wolfson and colleagues who discuss the opportunity the pandemic provided to implement changes to SNAP that can address the immediate crisis as well as longer-term structural changes needed to help SNAP better achieve its aim of helping participants afford enough nutritious food for a healthy lifestyle.

[Data on gun violence would save lives – just like it has for car crashes](#) is an opinion piece posted on *The Hill* by Dr. Emmy Betz, a practicing emergency physician and researcher at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, where she also directs the [Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative](#). She discusses the value and impact of the three 'Es' of injury prevention...education, engineering, and enactment.

[Why Have Some States Been More Successful at COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution than Others?](#) is an opinion piece on *The Milbank Quarterly* by Gail R. Wilensky, PhD, an economist and senior fellow at Project HOPE, who discusses different state approaches to distribution and those results.

[‘How Do You Get to the End of the Year?’: Teachers Gear Up for the Final Push Even after this Pandemic Year Took a Massive Mental Health Toll](#) is a CPR story by Jenny Brundin who writes of challenges, efforts to stay healthy and the launch of a hotline last fall for teachers through the University of Colorado's Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Depression Center.

[Telehealth has been problem-solver](#) is a story on *Castle Pines News Press* by Thelma Grimes who talked with Dr. Ali Shmerling and others in Colorado who tout the value of telemedicine this past year.

[Attracting Doctors to Rural Colorado Is a Big Problem. This CU Anschutz Researcher Has a Few Ideas to Fix That](#) is a CPR story by Dan Boyce who interviewed Dr. Mark Deutchman, family doc, educator, and researcher in the family medicine department at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, about his recent study of recruiting and retaining doctors in rural communities. Ideas to stretch the number of patients served include hiring more NPs and PAs in teams with docs, as well as the use of telehealth.



RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

[Gun Violence, a Public Health Epidemic](#) is a post on the *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation site* that provides a collection of analyses and research findings on gun violence, as an urgent public health problem, that the foundation has supported.

[Confronting the Consequences of National Federation of Independent Business v Sebelius to Insure the Poor](#) is a post on *The Milbank Quarterly* by Sara Rosenbaum who writes about one of the worst examples of health injustice in the United States...more than a decade after the passage of the ACA, the very poorest residents in a dozen states remain without a pathway to affordable health insurance because they remain ineligible for Medicaid.

[Measuring Non-Claims-Based Primary Care Spending](#) is a brief posted on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site by Erin Taylor and colleagues that proposes a standard definition and measurement methodology that will allow policymakers to quantify total investment in primary care and enable comparisons of spending across states and within a state by region, payer, and health care system.

[Variant cases now make up more than half of new Colorado-19 cases](#) is a 9News study by Jennifer Meckles who writes about how state health data show four different types of COVID-19 variant strains have been identified in Colorado.



MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[Health Equity, Power, and the Law: Understanding the Political & Legal Determinants of Health](#) is a 30-minute YouTube webinar, in which speakers will explore health equity's relationship to the "political and legal determinants of health," why they matter now as much as ever, and what we can do about them.

[Justice Guzman: Legal aid can help begin the process of healing for sexual assault survivors](#) is an opinion piece on *The Dallas Morning News* by Eva Guzman, Texas Supreme Court justice, who talks about how one-third of Texas adults experience some form of sexual assault, yet most never report it to authorities for a host of reasons. She stresses that victims often need legal assistance for a variety of civil legal issues, a top priority for her.



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