



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

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 042222

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<https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/farleyhealthpolicycenter>



## NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[Simply the Best](#) is this week's newsletter from Ben Miller about how improving standards of mental health care involves quality, not quantity.

[Health Wonk Shop: The Future of Mental Health Coverage & Access](#) is an online seminar April 26<sup>th</sup> 10AM MT when a panel of experts will explore the future of mental health policy, including continuing enforcement challenges related to mental health parity and potential policy actions that could help improve access to mental health and SUD care.

[Some travelers celebrate, but health experts worry after a judge voids the federal mask mandate](#) is an NPR story by Rachel Treisman in which experts say the mask ruling robs governments of the ability to protect public health.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[Opinion: In any age, the questions confronting refugees are the same](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Landon Mascareñaz that asks us to not only welcome newcomers to live their full life but face that too few Coloradans of all backgrounds have access to the future they aspire to...through this we can begin to see the real truth, that all our lives are interwoven.

[The COVID-19 Pandemic: Still okay in Colorado, and the ongoing challenge of mis- and dis-information](#) is Dean Jon Samet's weekly commentary...this one about the politics of the pandemic.

[Houses of workshop are becoming houses of hope for low-income people](#) is a

3NewsNow story about what it means to be a good steward of the land.

[Returning to the Office and Feeling a Range of Emotions?](#) is a story on the *CU Anschutz Medical Campus* site by Kiley Kudrna about employer empathy and other workplace issues as employees return to in-office work.

[Women's Bean Project celebrates rebuilding lives – and a huge new facility in Denver](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Margaret Fleming about the new 20,000-square-foot building in Denver's Athmar Park neighborhood that will expand the nonprofit's ability to help women in chronic unemployment.

[WATCH: Life after High School – Opportunities in the Trades](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* about how college is far from the only option for Colorado's high school graduates and how they can get a jumpstart on a career in the trades while still in high school with vocational training and apprenticeship opportunities.

[Not going all in on the 988 hotline will ensure its failure](#) is an opinion piece by Ben Miller on *Stat News* about how the new nationwide crisis hotline is far from ready with fewer than 100 days until its launch.

[Mental Health vs Primary Care: How Americans Are Using Telehealth](#) is a commentary for *US News* by Robin Gelburd about how social workers and psychiatrists are among the providers Americans are frequently visiting via telehealth, highlighting the pandemic's continued mental health impact.



[Bill aims to prevent runaways, improve mental health results for Colorado foster youth at residential centers](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Jennifer Brown about a bill sponsored by Rep. Dafna Michaelson Jenet, a Democrat from Commerce City, which would require a public, online dashboard where parents and others could see if centers are safe and are improving kids' mental health.

[FACT SHEET: White House Releases 2022 National Drug Control Strategy that Outlines Comprehensive Path Forward to Address Addiction and the Overdose Epidemic](#) is the strategy posted on *whitehouse.gov* detailing the Biden Administration's plan that focuses on two critical drivers of the epidemic: untreated addiction and drug trafficking.

['There's winners and losers': Colorado is hoping to reform mental health, but a failed overhaul in 2014 shows how political connections maintain the status quo](#) is an important *CPR* story by Ben Markus that speaks to how we structure and administrate mental health, the politics and culture of mental health, and most importantly how these factors negatively impact people who need help.

[Opinion: Withholding gender-affirming care from children violates the Hippocratic Oath](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Drs. Matt Guerrieri and Lucas Morgan about how doing this will lead some to endure profound mental

anguish and even attempt suicide.

[Help Wanted: Building a Pipeline to Address the Children’s Mental Health Provider Workforce Shortage](#) is a commentary on the *National Governors Association* by Jessica Kirchner and Isabella Cuneo about how there is no silver bullet for the mental health crisis but reducing workforce shortages of these critical providers can go a long way to solving the problem.

[What Four States Are Doing to Advance Health Equity in Marketplace Insurance Plans](#) is an issue brief on *The Commonwealth Fund* by Dania Palanker and Nia Denise Gooding that explores comprehensive strategies that state-based marketplaces are pursuing to improve health equity through private health coverage.

[Leveraging Medicare to Advance Health Equity](#) is a perspective piece in *JAMA* by Drs. Meena Seshamani and Douglas B. Jacobs that emphasizes that a recommitment toward addressing equity cannot wait, and that the Medicare commitment to health equity requires stronger oversight to ensure those with Medicare can access the care they need.

[Florida pulls out of CDC survey on students’ drinking, drug use and suicidal thoughts](#) is a story in *The Denver Gazette* by Kate Santich that mental health advocates call “an incredibly dangerous precedent” as the data from the survey is essential for understanding the struggles of adolescents and teens and guiding public policy.



[Crossing Lines – A Change in the Leading Cause of Death among U.S. Children](#) is a perspective piece in the *New England Journal of Medicine* by Dr. Lois K. Lee and colleagues that discusses a notable change in cause of deaths in children and the importance and value of comprehensive public databases.

[Johnson’s bigger crime is failing to take the nation’s health seriously enough](#) is a post on *emails.bmj* by Kamran Abbasi about a new study that offers some hope in older age. The author and colleagues looked at the effect of lifestyle factors on life expectancy, lived with and without Alzheimer’s dementia, and found a longer life expectancy and about a 50% decrease in life years lived with Alzheimer’s disease in people older than 65 years.

[Mental health tops education leaders’ post-pandemic priorities](#) is a story on *eSchool News* by Laura Ascione about study results highlight the most pressing crisis communication challenges and mental health concerns heading into the 2022-23 school year.

[As Pandemic Drags On, Kids Are Struggling with their Mental Health. So Are Their Parents](#) is a post on *Morning Consult* by Gaby Galvin about how survey results show that parents’ views of their children’s mental health and their own are linked.

[U.S. Adults' Knowledge on Suicide Prevention and 988](#) is a report posted on *The Trevor Project* site of polling results among a sample of 2210 adults that examines trends and perceptions around mental health and suicide.



## MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[The Unique Role of Medical-Legal Partnerships in Helping Health Centers Address Disability & Chronic Disease Discrimination](#) is a webinar series beginning April 27<sup>th</sup>, noon MT to explore the legal protections, common barriers, and the role of health centers in ending discrimination.

[Towards Racial Justice: The Role of Medical-Legal Partnerships](#) is an article posted on *Cambridge.org* by Medha D. Makhlouf styled as a self-critique, interrogating the norms of the MLP movement – namely the assumption that anti-poverty advocacy is racial justice advocacy – to understand how they may be holding the movement back from its health equity mission.

[A Major Effort to Link Homeless Response and Health Care](#) is a post on *governing.com* by Carl Smith about pilot projects in five communities designed to determine how best to address the health risks that are connected to homelessness. Results could help guide professionals in reducing what has been a chronic problem.



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