



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[Dr. Anna Stavdal of Norway](#), a passionate advocate for family medicine, has been named the new president of WONCA. A particular passion for her is how family docs can adapt to current societal trends like digital health, without losing sight of the core values of the field. Here's [a post from her](#) this past fall in acknowledgment of World Mental Health Day.

[Updates on Use and Access: A Provider's Guide to Ambulatory Monoclonal Antibody Therapy for COVID-19](#) is an ECHO-sponsored webinar taking place three different times: 12/13 7-8AM MT, 12/14 7-8AM MT, 12/15 5-6PM MT designed for Colorado health care providers and administrators interested in MAT for COVID patients in the ambulatory setting.

[From the archives: Chief Dan George teaches understanding](#) is about a story printed in 1972 about the leader of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation at that time, a beloved actor, musician, poet, and author from Vancouver. Though it was written 50 years ago, his words still resonate today.

[Quick COVID-19 Primary Care Survey](#) from the Green Center for December, due 12/14, designed to better understand response and capacity of U.S. primary care practices.

[#988 – New Number, Same Problems?](#) is this week's newsletter from Ben Miller about how we're long overdue in this country to have a comprehensive, federally supported system in place that can dispatch trained mental health professionals to properly address these types of crises when they arise.

[SAMHSA Announces Unprecedented \\$30 Million Harm Reduction Grant Funding Opportunity to Help Address the Nation's Substance Use and Overdose Epidemic](#) is a SAMHSA post about how they are accepting applications for the first-ever harm reduction grant program, funding authorized by the American Rescue Plan.

[U.S. Surgeon General Issues Advisory on Youth Mental Health Crisis Further Exposed by COVID-19 Pandemic](#) is a press release posted on the *Health and Human Services* site that announces how earlier this week Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy issued an advisory to highlight the urgent need to address the nation's youth mental health crisis calling for a swift and coordinated response.



[COVID-19 Pandemic: Omicron arrives in Colorado, but some good news for the state](#) is this week's commentary from Dr. Jon Samet, Dean of the Colorado School of Public Health in which he provides a CO update on the Omicron variant as well as news that the curve of the number of hospitalized Coloradans is in decline.

[Youngest Coloradans eligible for COVID vaccine are lagging other age groups](#) is a story by Darius Johnson for *9 News* about how children aged 5 to 11 years have been eligible to get a vaccine for a month, but state data show they are the least vaccinated among eligible groups. The reporter talks with Dr. Brandi Freeman at Children's Hospital Colorado about her experiences.

[Pandemic pushes Colorado's pediatric mental health care system to the brink](#) is a story by Steve Staeger for *9 News* about how mental health experts say the isolation caused by the pandemic is especially harmful for kids.



[State Mental Health Safety Net is "Failing" Coloradans](#) is a post on *Colorado News Collaborative* by Susan Greene, Rosalynn Carter Mental Health Journalism Fellow, who writes about an investigation into a state (Colorado) that has the nation's highest rate of adult mental illness and lowest access to care, and highlights how the state government is on the edge of either turning around its behavioral health care system or reorganizing a bureaucracy that is failing too many.

[State mental health agency leader resigns amid scrutiny](#) is an AXIOS story by John Frank about the resignation of Robert Werthwein, Colorado's behavioral health leader, amid investigations related to massive gaps in the state's mental health safety net.

[Bill from Rep. Joe Neguse would expand access to out-of-state mental health services](#) is a story in the *Coloradan* by Jacy Marmaduke about a bipartisan bill from Rep. Neguse that could increase access to out-of-state mental health resources.

[Gatekeepers need to tame 'Wild West' of mental health and other digital health therapeutics](#) is an opinion piece on *Stat News* by Erica Johnson about how some startups seem willing to risk patient safety, providing inadequate care in hopes of getting rich quick, and “with the risky stakes...these companies need to act like it.”

[Boise Public Library wants to hire a mental health worker](#) is an NPR story by James Dawson about how Boise City Council will soon consider adding a mental health professional to its library staff, part of a growing nationwide trend.

[Health Equity: California Style](#) is an opinion piece in *The Milbank Quarterly* by Richard M. Scheffler who writes about two pieces of legislation to establish a health equity fund and Medi-Cal waivers to address health equity.



[Primary Care and COVID-19: It's Complicated – Leveraging Primary Care, Public Health, and Social Assets](#) is the Primary Care Collaborative's Annual Evidence-Based Report in which the PCC examines community factors at the county level starting with primary care but also including public health and social assets to determine if these factors can help mitigate the effects of the pandemic and other health emergencies.

[State Policies Expanding Access to Behavioral Health Care in Medicaid](#) is an issue brief on the *Kaiser Family Foundation* site by Madeline Guth about how states are taking advantage of new federal policy options to address behavioral issues in Medicaid, and how they are also developing other initiatives to improve mental health and substance use outcomes. The author reports on KFF's 21st annual Medicaid budget survey and summarizes data from this survey.

[N.H.'s Child Advocate: The pandemic has exacerbated a mental health crisis among children](#) is an NHPR story by Mary McIntyre and Rick Ganley who write about a new report from New Hampshire's Office of the Child Advocate that highlights how children have been harmed by the pandemic.



[Electronic Exchange of Data and "Closing the Loop"](#) is a post on the *National Center for Medical Legal Partnership* site about using the EHR to make MLP referrals, confirm successful connections, and receive updates about legal outcomes...an Iowa case study.

[Nursing-Led Partnership](#) is a post on the *Nurse Led Care* site about how a team of lawyers in Philadelphia works together with nurses who educate and

support new parents through the evidence-based Nurse-Family Partnership and Parents as Teachers home visiting programs.



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