



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

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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



## NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[Incrementalism is insufficient](#) is this week's newsletter from Ben Miller about how the country's addiction crisis requires sweeping change.

[CU Denver Engineers Diverse Ways to Serve Communities](#) is a podcast/article from *CU On the Air* in which host, Emily Davies, talks to Dr. David Mays, professor of civil engineering at CU Denver, about the college's mission to serve Coloradans from every walk of life and every income level...and more.

[Scribbled Notes on Scraps of Paper Tell WWII POW's Tale of Sheer Will](#) is the first of a five-part story posted on the *CU Anschutz* site by Chris Casey and Russell Stone about a rare Pacific Theater prison camp diary (housed at the Strauss Health Sciences Library on the Anschutz campus) by a CU SOM graduate, Dr. Jack Arthur Comstock, that graphically depicts atrocities, despair, survival, compassion, and hope.

[An evening with Isabel Wilkerson](#) is a co-sponsored event by The Colorado Trust and the Tattered Cover December 14<sup>th</sup>, 6-7PM MT. Ms. Wilkerson, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Humanities Medal, is the author of the critically acclaimed *The Warmth of Other Suns* and *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*, which some say is the missing puzzle piece of our country's history.

[Community Engagement Forum: Understanding and Appreciating the Capacities of the Community...Relational and Practical Partnerships, Part 1](#) will be a technical assistance panel discussion December 15<sup>th</sup>, 12-1PM MT to include Jamie Dominguez and Ramona Koren about the relational and practical aspects of partnerships.

[ICU bed shortage forcing hospitals to find more space](#) is a KDVR story by Rachel Skytta about how Colorado had to call FEMA to help manage understaffed hospitals and Dr. Jean Kutner's report (chief medical officer at

UCHealth) about how the situation is impacting patient care.

Wheelchair Barbie Goes to the Gynecologist is the Ob-Gyn Grand Rounds December 8<sup>th</sup> presented by Cody Unser of the First Step Foundation in Albuquerque who will address common medical issues that may affect those with disabilities, discuss physical barriers and attitudinal barriers faced by these folks, and learn how clinicians can improve their care for women with disabilities. [Link to the virtual meeting.](#)



[COVID-19 Pandemic: Mask mandates for Metro Denver and the Omicron variant emerges](#) is this week's commentary from Dr. Jon Samet, Dean of the Colorado School of Public Health, who provides an update on the Omicron variant.

[Harnessing the Healing Power of a Doctor-Patient Relationship](#) is a story on the *CU Anschutz Medical Campus* site by Debra Melani who writes about the gratitude a couple has for the care they received from their CU doctor.

[Colorado revamps opioid anti-stigma campaign to reach more diverse audience](#) is a *KUNC* story by Stephanie Daniel who writes about an initiative by Colorado's Office of Behavioral Health, "Lift the Label," the state's attempt to expand the opioid anti-stigma public awareness campaign to reach a wider and more diverse audience.

[Axios Deep Dives on Mental Health](#) is a post by Caitlin Owens containing several stories that feature current and future challenges.

[Denver and its surrounding counties just issued a new mask order. These five charts show why.](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by John Ingold and Jesse Paul about how the number of people dying from COVID in Colorado is the highest it has been all year and "how if we can decrease our hospitalizations by even 10 to 15% it will have a huge impact for our margins."

[Six Questions about Waning Immunity to COVID-19 Answered](#) is a story in the *Smithsonian Magazine* by Emma Yasinski who talked with and writes about experts weighing in on when a reduced immune response occurs and how boosters can help restore defenses.

[There is a mental health crisis in the Black community. Churches are stepping up.](#) is a story in the *Indy Star* by Brandon Drenon who writes about how Rev. Dwight Holland has gotten his master's in psychotherapy and faith and is part of a movement to reduce the stigmatization of mental illness within Black churches across Central Indiana.

[Seattle-area youth created this guide to connect teens to multicultural mental health care](#) is a story in the *Seattle Times* by Jenn Smith who writes about an innovation in Washington that allows a 13-year-old to seek and receive mental

health services, treatment for a substance use disorder or withdrawal management support without the consent of a parent or guardian.



## POLICY EFFORTS

[Public Health Forward: Modernizing the U.S. Public Health System](#) is a call to action from the Bipartisan Policy Center for state, territorial, and local policymakers to move public health forward. This report defines a vision for health in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and provides a practical, prioritized, bipartisan set of actions to guide strategic investments and decision-making to achieve this vision.

[Expanding Mental Health Care Is a Medical Necessity](#) is an article in *Scientific American* by the editors who write how emergency measures put in place in 2020 must be permanently extended, and equally important are systemic policy changes to bolster socioeconomic support.

[As a staffing crisis continues, Virginia tries to overhaul its mental health response system](#) is a story in the *Virginia Mercury* by Kate Masters who writes about how new services aim to connect more patients with treatment, but a lack of providers is tempering expectations.

[New York City allows the nation's 1<sup>st</sup> supervised consumption sites for illegal drugs](#) is an NPR story by Brian Mann and Caroline Lewis who write about the first government-approved supervised drug injection sites in the nation began offering services to people with addiction this week.

[The Turning Point: Reflections on Public Health in 2021](#) is an article in *Public Health Post* by Michael Stein and Sandro Galea about COVID-19 profits and profiteering and how the pandemic has been more than a public health issue.

[In Celebration of CMS' Call to Medicaid and CHIP Action: It's Both Great and Not Enough](#) is a blog post by Kate McEvoy, former Medicaid and CHIP director in Connecticut, who discusses her delight over [CMS's strategic vision](#) that will build on Medicaid's many historical successes.

[Our National Mental Health Hotline – 988—is Set to Go Live Soon. We Aren't Ready.](#) is a story on *Mind Site News* by Vincent Atchity about this resource set to go live 7/16/22...a first step, but the author outlines additional work needed between now and then.

[Opinion: Colorado's first mental-health commissioner must be more than a symbolic hire](#) is a commentary by Ben Miller in *The Colorado Sun* who states that, "In a perfect world, every state in America would have a dedicated leader focused on mental health in a position of authority."



## RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

[Electronic Health Records as Biased Tools or Tools Against Bias: A Conceptual Model](#) is an article on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site by Michael D. Rozier and colleagues who write about how EHRs are subject to the implicit bias of their designers, which risks perpetuating and amplifying that bias over time and across users.

[Does Vaping as a Smoking Cessation Tool Outweigh its Risks to Youth?](#) is a post on the *CU Anschutz Medical Campus* site by Debra Melani who writes how the FDA ruled the benefits of one company's vaping products for adults wanting to quit smoking outweighed the risks to youth, and how a CU expert on tobacco use/cessation breaks down some of the issues surrounding the approval of an e-cigarette device.

[Routine childhood vaccinations lag as experts push to catch up](#) is an *NBC News* by Kate Ruder who writes how health officials hope the rollout of COVID shots for kids will boost routine vaccination rates that dropped during the pandemic.

[Participation, Pricing, and Enrollment in a Health Insurance "Public Option": Evidence from Washington State's Cascade Care Program](#) is an article in *The Milbank Quarterly* by Aditi P. Sen and colleagues provide lessons learned from Washington State's public option offering to lower health spending and reduce the number of uninsured.

[Virtual Care and Mental Health: Addressing Barriers to Accessing Behavioral Health Care Services](#) is a report from the *United States of Care* in partnership with Well Being Trust and Third Horizon Strategies who explored the role of virtual care in providing effective, timely and quality behavioral health care, including treatment for mental health and substance use disorders.



## MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[The Role of Medical-Legal Partnerships in Harm Reduction Models](#) will feature a panel discussion December 14<sup>th</sup> 11AM to noon MT in which practitioners at HealthL Inc and Indiana Legal Services, Inc. and the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership folks will discuss how MLPs can be part of a health center's holistic harm reduction and recovery supports approach, and they will highlight best practices for conducting outreach and screenings.

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