

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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Editor: Linda Niebauer https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/farleyhealthpolicycenter



CO-CARES is a Colorado initiative aimed at supporting health care workers and leaders, public health professionals, and caregivers who have been impacted by the COVID-19 response. Learn more about the resources available as well as about upcoming educational events here. An upcoming ECHO series, part of the CO-CARES initiative (Past the Pandemic: Individual Wellbeing, Connection and Support), will provide participants with an awareness of the manifestations of stress along a continuum 1/17-2/21 or 2/29-4/4.

Farley Center legislative updates will resume on the 4 th Wednesday of the month January (the first 1/25) through May 2024 at 2PM MT. These are virtual, 45-minute update sessions on some of the bills going before the Colorado Legislature. If interested in attending these sessions, please email farleyhealthpolicycenter@cuanschutz.edu indicating such.



Grace for the Gaps is a blog post on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site by Morgan McDonald who writes that "Healthy equity work in government is about weaving grace into the systems and programs that affect the lives of millions. It's about inviting patients and constituents affected by government-funded programs into conversations to build them, even inviting criticism to be able to better see the barriers in our systems."

<u>Paxlovid to the Rescue? What to Know about the COVID-19 Drug</u> is a post on the *CU Anschutz Medical Campus* website by Debra Melani about how the antiviral therapy remains effective and how alternative drugs

addressing side effects are in the works.

<u>Community Partnerships</u> is a post on *The Colorado Trust* website about a strategy launched in 2014 that at its foundation required that those affected by challenges in a community play a lead role in determining how to address them.

Colorado foster kids are less likely to graduate than homeless children. A new program is trying to fix that. is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Jennifer Brown about how a nonprofit, that licenses foster parents, started a tutoring program designed to help kids regulate their brains and focus on school.



Percentage of people without health insurance coverage in Colorado hits an all-time low is an article in *The Colorado Sun* by John Ingold about how the decline in the uninsured rate was driven by an increase people covered by Medicaid.

<u>Surviving Open Enrollment</u> is a discussion with a panel of experts about health insurance options moderated by John Ingold about new coverage options, how to find plans, and how to find a plan that fits budgets and needs.

<u>Lieutenant Governor Visit Puts Long COVID in the Spotlight</u> is a post on the *CU Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute* website by Wendy Meyer about a roundtable event on campus that brought together patients, clinicians, and researchers to address the issues surrounding the high demand of Coloradans who continue to experience long-term symptoms after COVID.



<u>Slavery and the Journal – Reckoning with History and Complicity</u> is a perspective in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by Dr. David S. Jones and colleagues that is part of an invited series by independent historians, focused on biases and injustice that the NEJM (first publication in 1812) has historically helped to perpetuate. This article is also an invitation for further exploration and intervention.

The Impact of COVID-19 on Health Care Spending in Three States: A Health Care Cost Driver Analysis is a blog post on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site by Christopher Romero-Gutierrez and Michael H. Bailit about their analysis of commercial insurer data in all-payer databases that found that increases in use of medical services and drug price increases in 2021 drove higher spending.

Adoption and Value of the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit: A Mixed-Method Study is an article in *Medical Care Research and Review* by Mika K. Hamer and colleagues about how the annual wellness visit has the potential to increase the use of high-value preventive services although not all clinics have an economic incentive to adopt the visit, which may explain some of the variability in utilization rates.

MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

Novel perinatal medical-legal partnership development and pilot implementation to address health-harming legal needs is a perspective piece in the *Journal of Perinatology* by Ladawna Gievers and colleagues, clinicians and researchers with the Oregon-based MLP, that describes their health system's innovative development and pilot implementation of the first MLP in a neonatal intensive care unit.

<u>Principles of Trustworthiness Toolkit Pilot Project</u> is an initiative in which the AAMC Center for Health Justice aims to award up to five multisector, community partnerships with up to \$30,000 to formally use the toolkit and contribute to the evaluation during a one-year period. Application deadline: December 22.

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