



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

[With love and tears: My first and last memories of Dr. Paul Farmer](#) is an opinion piece for NPR by Dr. Sriram Shamasunder who shares memories of Dr. Farmer [who died](#) in his sleep last weekend in a Rwandan hospital at the age of 62. Dr. Farmer, the pioneer and champion of global health and a practitioner of social medicine, raised millions of dollars and provided quality health care to some of the world's poorest people. You may wish to check out this tribute in [The Atlantic](#).

[With All Things Being \(Un\) Equal...](#) is the title of this week's newsletter from Ben Miller about how the mental health crisis is disproportionately affecting Black communities.

[Walking the Tight-Rope: Navigating requests for Aid-in-Dying \(MAiD\) in the suicidal patient](#) is an Ethics Grand Rounds presentation March 10th, 12-1PM MT by Dr. Jonathan Treem, CU SOM Palliative Care Clinic lead physician.

[Criminal Justice and Equity Webinar Series Session 3: Trauma-Informed Systems for Justice-Involved Populations](#) is a webinar with roundtable panelists sponsored by the Kennedy-Satcher Center for Mental Health Equity March 15th, 9-10:30AM MT to address the landscape of inequities that affect justice-involved individuals.

[The February survey](#) from The Larry A. Green Center and the Primary Care Collaborative designed to better understand response and capacity of primary care practices to COVID-19 is available for completion by US primary care clinicians, requiring no more than 4-5 minutes of your time. Responses due March 1st by 11:59PM PT.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[Time for united action on depression: a Lancet-World Psychiatric Association Commission](#) is a summary in *The Lancet* by Prof. Helen Herman and colleagues about the importance of depression that includes prevention.

[Mental health after COVID-19](#) is an editorial on *The BMJ* site by Scott Weich that discusses COVID risks and how it's time to learn and respond.

[The COVID-19 Pandemic: COVID-19 is in retreat in Colorado but stay tuned?](#) is this week's commentary from Dr. Jon Samet about the lull in the pandemic and the hope for a healthy spring.

[Ads Contributed to Hooking Black Smokers on Menthols. Now CU Experts Are Fighting Back](#) is a story on the *CU Anschutz* site by Laura Veith about how the Colorado School of Public Health rallies community partnership to reverse years of deadly social injustice.

[Widespread Misinformation about Infertility Continues to Create COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy](#) is a perspective piece on *JAMA* by Jennifer Abbasi, which suggests that trusted physicians can change patients' minds and help to halt the spread of misinformation.



POLICY EFFORTS

[Stabilizing Health Care's Share of the GDP](#) is an opinion piece in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by Dr. Jonathan Skinner and colleagues who write how their research demonstrated that nearly all wage and salary increases between 1999 and 2009 for the median-income American worker were absorbed by increases in health care premiums, out-of-pocket expenses, and taxes for fund Medicare and Medicaid, which has resulted in little left over for discretionary purchases or savings.

[Ten things you need to know about the Health and Care Bill](#) is a brief posted on *The BMJ* by Tom Moberly, UK editor, that characterizes proposed reforms of the UK's NHS, which reveals many challenges like those in the United States at clinical and political levels.

[Implementing the 988 Hotline: A Critical Window to Decriminalize Mental Health](#) is an article in *Health Affairs* by Polina Krass and colleagues who caution that with inadequate preparation, the rollout of 988 has huge implications for public trust.

[Pandemic's mental health crisis shows California needs to reinvent health care](#) is an opinion piece on the *Desert Sun* by Shruti Kothari and Chris Koller who address the issue of reimagining health care in California, a plan already in

development before COVID was a thing.

[The Stumbling Block to One of the Most Promising Police Reforms](#) is an article in *The Atlantic* by David A. Graham who discusses how the best mental-health responders in the world can help only if emergency dispatchers know when to deploy them.

[Racism & Health in US Medicine: A conversation with Harriet A. Washington](#) *Health Affairs* is a 30-minute YouTube vide in which the history of racism in medicine and research is discussed.



[Association Between Hospice Enrollment and Total Health Care Costs for Insurers and Families, 2002-2018](#) is an article on *JAMA Network* by Dr. Melissa D. Aldridge and colleagues in which the authors reported that hospice use by community-dwelling Medicare beneficiaries was associated with significantly lower total health care costs across all payers in the last three days to last three months of life in their cohort study

[\\$76 million could fix Colorado's youth mental health system, study finds as kids are sent out of state for care](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Jennifer Brown who writes about signs that point to the failure of Colorado's youth residential treatment centers without more funding. A coalition that includes the treatment centers, Children's Hospital Colorado, and county human service directors are lobbying to get lawmakers and Gov. Polis to act on a study that found it would cost \$76 million to fully fund Colorado's residential centers for children with severe mental health needs.

[State-Level Social and Economic Policies and their Association with Perinatal and Infant Outcomes](#) is an article on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site by Jessica L. Webster and colleagues that discusses how these study findings: state-level social and economic policies that expand tax credits, increased paid parental leave, raising the minimum wage, and increased tobacco taxes were shown to reverse perinatal and infant health outcomes.

[Program helps primary care practices expand access to opioid use disorder treatment](#) is a post on *Helio* that describes a multilevel program, co-directed by Linda Zittleman and designed to provide support and resources to rural primary care practices, and how it showed an increase in buprenorphine prescriptions.

[Research America: January National Survey Results](#) includes results from a public opinion survey and a graphic depiction of how mental health has overtaken cancer as a top three health concern.

[Epidemic Rates of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Disorders Require an Urgent Response](#) is an article in *Pediatrics* by Dr. Ruth Shim and colleagues that shows high rates of mental health disorders among U.S. children and youth, including evidence that even very young children experience mental health conditions.



MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[Advancing Action on Health Equity through a Sociolegal Model of Health](#) is an article on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site by Ashley Schram and colleagues who suggest that health providers can use the law more strategically in the pursuit of health and equity by addressing governance challenges, employing a broader rights-based discourse in the public health policy process, and collaborating with the access to justice movement.

[When Everyone Benefits: Exploring the Roles of Health Care Providers in Law Enforcement Reform, Crisis Assistance, and Public Policy on Unsheltered Homelessness](#) is a free, virtual symposium April 6th 10AM-1:30PM MT to explore the future of public safety and the intersecting issues of unsheltered homelessness, criminalization, crisis response, street outreach, and health care.

[White House Applauds Anti-Eviction Program](#) is a story on the University of Maryland Baltimore site by Laura Lee about how this school is one of 99 law schools recently recognized during a virtual White House and Department of Justice event for responding to AG Merrick Garland's call to action to address a looming housing and eviction crisis.

[Public Health Strategies: A Pathway for Public Health Practice to Leverage Law in Advancing Equity](#) is an article in the *Journal of Public Health Management & Practice* by Samantha Bent Weber and Matthew Penn that outlines a pathway for public health departments and practitioners to incorporate law into their efforts to advance equity in health outcomes.



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