FRIDAY'S FEATURES

NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

Happy Anniversary! is Ben Miller's newsletter one year into this publication in which he offers words of reflection and gratitude.

Legacies of the American Jewish Health Community: Colorado's Leading Role in Treating Tuberculosis is a presentation co-sponsored by the CU Center for Bioethics and Humanities and the DU Center for Judaic Studies March 14th, noon-1:30PM MT.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

Teens are vaping fentanyl, poison control warns is a story on KDVR by Ashley Michels who talks with Dr. Chris Hoyt, medical director of the Rocky Mountain Poison Center, who talks about the up tick in calls about adolescents who have been experimenting with vaping fentanyl.

Public health officials face political pressures in navigating communities through pandemic is a *9News* interview with Dr. Mark Wallace, former Weld County public health director, who had prepared for a pandemic but not the politics that came with it.

The COVID-19 Pandemic: Continue to be Optimistic! is this week's commentary from Dean Jon Samet in which he recaps decades of extraordinary change lived by folks in their 80s and 90s, spurred on by his NYTimes reading.

Pandemic's impact on youth mental health 'devastating': Surgeon General is

an *ABC News* story by Kelly Livingston in which Dr. Vivek Murthy told lawmakers this week that the pandemic has had a devastating impact on young people, and that addressing this issue is "not just medical, it's moral."

[For their mental health, college students turn to peer counseling](#) is a post on *GBH News* by Kirk Carapezza about how students at Boston College have created a peer support network to help each other with what has been a difficult college life balance.

POLICY EFFORTS

[Cheek to Cheek: The Dance of Leadership](#) is a blog post by Christopher F. Koller on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site that discusses the value of fostering public sector leadership and the importance of creating a culture where all participants feel valued and untied by the same population health goals.

[State-Level Social and Economic Policies and their Association with Perinatal and Infant Outcomes](#) is an article in the *Milbank Quarterly* by Jessica L. Webster and colleagues who suggest that policies that expand tax credits, increase paid parental leave, raise the minimum wage, and increase tobacco taxes have demonstrated reduced adverse perinatal and infant health outcomes.

[Racial Biology and Medical Misconceptions](#) is a perspective piece in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by Dr. Andrea Deyrup and colleagues who call out the biggest racial misconception still operative in the medical community; socially defined races continue to be viewed as if they are accurate reflections of biologic variation within our species.

[Beyond Diversity – Time for New Models of Health](#) is a perspective piece in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by Dr. Jane L. Delgado who discusses how despite the ability to collect and analyze far richer health data than ever before, public health and medical experts have failed to use that information to develop new conceptual models for health.

[Trade-offs and Policy Options – Using Insights from Economics to Inform Public Health Policy](#) is a perspective piece in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by Drs. Tiffany Green and Atheendar S. Venkartaramani who believe that economics can critically inform public health efforts and provide a useful starting point for understanding how we can use economic insights to increase population-level adoption of preventive behaviors and reduce inequalities in health outcomes.

[California has too few behavioral health professionals. Lawmakers propose a fix](#) is a story in the *Los Angeles Times* by Melody Gutierrez about how state lawmakers want to offer financial incentives in hopes of bringing in and retaining more professionals to improve access to mental health services in the state.

[Senate Finance leaders outline mental health legislative timeline](#) is a post on

Roll Call by Sandhya Raman that announces a bipartisan plan to develop a legislative package addressing mental health for this summer.

Student Mental Health Is Overwhelming Schools. Can Congress Help? is a post on *Education Week* by Andrew Ujifusa about the testimony from Claire Rhyneer, a recent high school graduate, in a U.S. Senate hearing on mental health disorders and substance abuse. She called for schools to adopt curricula that incorporates material about mental health.

RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

Racism and Health is an introduction by Alan R. Weil, editor-in-chief of *Health Affairs*, who announces that four overview articles in this month's issue will orient the reader to the complex relationship between racism and health.

The Intellectual Roots of Current Knowledge on Racism and Health: Relevance to Policy and the National Equity Discourse is an overview by Ruth Enid Zambrana and David R. Williams who conclude that there is a need to acknowledge the central role of racism in the national discourse on racial inequities in health, and paradigmatic shifts are needed to inform equity-driven policy and practice innovations that would tackle the roots of the problem of racism and dismantle health inequities.

Advocacy training for young family doctors in primary mental health care: A report and global call to action is an article on *BJGP Open* by Sina Haj Amor and colleagues, some from the Farley Health Policy Center, about how the Farley Health Policy Center partnered with the World Organization of Family Doctors to develop and pilot a global curriculum to enable learners to lead practice transformation and be empowered with policy-influencing skills to advocate for their patients to promote and enhance primary care mental health.

Patients struggle to access Colorado's aid-in-dying law 5 years later is a story on *AXIOS* by John Frank who calls out that objections among physicians are limiting access. A recent survey indicated that 81% were willing to discuss it but fewer than 48% were willing to be consulting/attending physicians.

Increasing Capacity for Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder in Rural Primary Care Practices is an article in *Annals of Family Medicine* by Linda Zittleman and colleagues whose work aimed to increase the number of rural PCPs providing opioid use disorder treatment with buprenorphine.

Report: At least 63 people died from domestic violence incidents in Colorado in 2020 is story on *The Denver Channel* by Sydney Isenberg who cites data from the Colorado Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board's annual report and released by the Colorado Attorney General's Office this week.

Supportive Texts Can Improve College Students' Mental Health is a post on the California State University Fullerton site that discusses results from a new study that indicates students receiving a check-in text message from a friend or family member may help reduce feelings of isolation and depression.

[Survey: Widespread need for mental health care during pandemic](#) is a post on *Commonwealth Magazine* by Shira Schoenberg about study results that indicate half of those surveyed, aged 19 to 39 years, say they required help.

MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[Using Legal Services as Part of a Community Strategy to Improve Maternal and Child Health](#) is a new learning collaborative focused on maternal and child health that will launch in March sponsored by the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership.

[MLP in Health Centers (Session 1): A deep dive on laying the foundation & funding the model](#) is the first session of a webinar series designed to help health center and MLP staff better understand how to develop and implement their MLP models and explore effective methods for funding.

[Leveraging Health Center MLPs to Advance Community-Oriented Policing](#) is a webinar abut how MLLPs can advance public safety and community-oriented policing initiatives.

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