



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

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[\*Good Intentions\*](#) is a video recording of a talk given by Mary C. Daly, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, that is remarkably candid and thoughtful about our responsibility as teachers and leaders in recognizing biases and how the practice of equity requires accountability, relentless effort and humility.

[\*H. Jack Geiger and the Power of Health Care to Transform Lives and Communities\*](#) is a post on the President's Blog on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site by Chris Koller, president, who pays tribute to Dr. H. Jack Geiger... journalist, physician, and relentless advocate for civil rights and social justice, who passed away December 28<sup>th</sup> at the age of 95.

[\*Learning How to Die – Lessons from the Irish Wake\*](#) is a perspective piece by Dr. Rose M. Olson published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* who describes her idea of what a good death looks like and what it means to share the dying process.

[\*New COVID-19 data dashboard to include economic, mental health impacts\*](#) is a story in the *Sentinel* by Carina Julig who reports that the Colorado School of Public Health at CU Anschutz is developing a new COVID-19 dashboard that will include information on a county-by-county level about the economic and mental health impacts of the pandemic. The website, online at [Colorado-data.org](http://Colorado-data.org), currently has visualizations of the state of the pandemic for each county in Colorado as well as statewide overview that can be filtered by age and race.

[\*Improv4Health: Using Medical Improv to Foster Empathy, Compassion and Self-Compassion\*](#) is a presentation February 19<sup>th</sup>, noon to 1PM MT by Dr. Amy Zelenski who will explore how a theater method often associated with comedy can build resilience and connection.

[\*\*State-Based Solutions for Connecting People to Mental Health Care & Addiction Recovery Services\*\*](#) is a one-hour webinar co-sponsored by United States of Care and Well Being Trust that offered a series of state-level policy recommendations focused on improving mental health and substance use disorder care delivery.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[\*\*COVID-19 Vaccines: One Dose or Two? Experts Weigh In\*\*](#) is a story by Debra Melani on the *CU Anschutz Medical Campus* site that provides thoughts on delaying COVID-19 booster shots from two CU School of Medicine experts.

[\*\*Assisting COVID Survivors through Tele-rehab 'AFTER' Discharge\*\*](#) is a story and podcast in which Kristine Erlandson and Jennifer Stevens-Lapsley, professors at CU Anschutz Medical Campus, talk about a groundbreaking [tele-rehabilitation program](#) for COVID-19 survivors. There is no cost to patients, and rehab equipment is available.

[\*\*Fauci: Vaccines for Kids as Young as First Graders Could Be Authorized by September\*\*](#) is a story in *ProPublica* that indicates for this to happen by the start of the next school year, trials need to prove the vaccine is safe and effective in children and experts indicate manufacturers aren't moving quickly enough.

[\*\*Vaccine Guilt is Real. Here's How to Deal, According to Local Ethicists\*\*](#) is a story in *5280* by Jenny McCoy in which ethicists (including Drs. Matt Wynia and Daniel Goldberg from CU School of Medicine) discuss how giving up your spot in line won't solve inequities...and what you can do instead.

[\*\*How to Help When Adolescents Have Suicidal Thoughts\*\*](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Dr. Perri Klass who addresses how to keep kids safe even when rates of suicidal ideation increase.

[\*\*I AM DENVER: Rick Padilla and Suicide Prevention\*\*](#) is a 5.5-minute YouTube video narrated by Rick Padilla, Suicide Prevention Administrator, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, who is determined to elevate the suicide prevention conversation and to let our kids know that their challenges will not go unanswered.

[\*\*Vaccines bring hope and healing to parishioners at Colorado's oldest Black church\*\*](#) is a story by Katie Kerwin McCrimmon for *UCHealth Today* who writes how African Americans have suffered disproportionately during the pandemic but so far have received only about 5% of vaccines in the United States. UCHealth workers and doctors teamed up with Rev. Dr. Timothy E. Tyler to vaccinate churchgoers at Shorter Community AME Church, the center of this community and a place in which people have trust.

[\*\*Mental health professionals are the ones taking care of us: Who's taking care of them?\*\*](#) is a story in *USA Today* by Alia E. Dastagir who spoke with mental health workers who indicated the pandemic has been the most challenging year of their professional lives not to mention months of racial unrest, a



## POLICY EFFORTS

[\*Mayor Hancock Hosted Panel Discussing Vaccine Inequity\*](#) is a story in *Out Front Magazine* by Corcoran O’Leary about how Denver’s mayor held a panel discussion last week about the effects of the pandemic on the Latinx community, and the current state of the virus in Colorado to give transparency to the process of vaccine rollout and to discuss the fear and distrust many people of color have about the medical community.

[\*How a sluggish vaccination program could delay a return to normal and invite vaccine-resistant variants to emerge\*](#) is a story in *The Washington Post* by Harry Stevens and colleagues who write how experts warn that the current pace of vaccinations won’t just prolong coronavirus restrictions, it could also make it more likely that new variants will infect the previously immune.

[\*New California Law Makes It Easier to Get Care for Mental Health and Substance Abuse\*](#) is a post on *California Healthline* by Bernard J. Wolfson about how this law should make it harder for state-regulated commercial health plans to use their own black box criteria not transparent to enrollees, and inconsistent with standards of care.

[\*In Its First 100 Days, the Biden Administration Must Restore the Soul of Medicaid\*](#) is a post on the *Health Affairs Blog* by Nicole Huberfeld and Paul Shafer who suggest the top priority should be steady and rebuilding Medicaid, the health care safety-net program that covers nearly one-quarter of the population.

[\*America’s crisis of despair: A federal task force for economic recovery and societal well-being\*](#) is a Brookings report that is part of the Brookings Blueprints for American Renewal and Prosperity project discussed by Carol Graham that calls out the need for a federal level commitment to well-being and mental health if we are to achieve a complete recovery from the COVID-19 shock.

[\*History of Mistreatment Is Fueling Vaccine Hesitation for People of Color in Colorado\*](#) is a CPR story by Andrea Dukakis who references a Pew Research Center study that found Black Americans are less inclined to take the COVID-19 vaccine compared with whites or Latinos.

[\*Youths of color are our future. Investing in their mental health must be taken seriously\*](#) is an opinion piece on *STAT* by Margarita Alegria who suggests necessary steps to expand access to mental health and substance use treatment.

[\*Primary Care Doctors Are Left Out of the Vaccine Rollout\*](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Reed Abelson about how in the rush to immunize people against COVID, federal and state health officials have overlooked the role of the physician, and how primary care doctors have grown increasingly frustrated with their exclusion from the nation's vaccine rollout. Data from this story were derived from a survey conducted last month by the [Larry A. Green Center](#) with the Primary Care Collaborative.

[\*Study: Primary Care Is Optimal Vaccine Delivery Channel\*](#) is a story posted on the AAFP site about how primary care practices are 'crucial' to COVID-19 vaccine process according to a pre-print conclusion of a Robert Graham Center study that will be published as part of the Annals of Family Medicine COVID-19 Collection.

[\*Efficacy and Safety of the mRNA-1273 SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine\*](#) is an article in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by Dr. Lindsey R. Baden and colleagues who write about a phase 3 randomized, stratified, observer-blinded, placebo-controlled trial that included adults in medically stable condition at 99 U.S. sites, and showed 94.1% efficacy at preventing COVID-19 illness.

[\*Physician Task Load and the Risk of Burnout Among US Physicians in a National Survey\*](#) is an article in *The Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety* by Dr. Elizabeth Harry and colleagues about how the relationship between physician task load and burnout may suggest areas of particular focus to improve the practice environment and reduce physician burnout.

[\*Contributions of U.S. Medical Schools to Primary Care \(2003-2014\): Determining and Predicting Who Really Goes into Primary Care\*](#) is an article by Dr. Mark Deutchman and colleagues in *Family Medicine* who write about a project designed to determine the magnitude by which primary care output is overestimated by commonly used metrics, and who identify a more accurate method for predicting actual primary care output.

[\*Trends and Geographic Patterns in Drug and Synthetic Opioid Overdose Deaths – United States, 2013-2019\*](#) is a CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report that indicates during this timeframe, the age-adjusted rate of deaths involving synthetic opioids other than methadone increased 1,040%, and for psychostimulants increased 317%.

[\*The Implications of COVID-19 for Mental Health and Substance Use\*](#) is an issue brief by Nirmita Panchal and colleagues posted on the Kaiser Family Foundation site that explores mental health and substance use during and prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on populations that were particularly at risk for experiencing negative mental health or substance abuse consequences during the pandemic.



MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[Cummings Foundation Funds New Medical-Legal Partnership](#) is a post on the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center site by Lauren M. Darisse, Esq. who reports on a partnership between a family health center and Northeast Legal Aid, and the important benefits that can arise from the partnership.

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