



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

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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



[A first-generation American inspired by his Mexican healer father is now a Denver doctor making a difference](#) is a heartwarming story in *The Denver Post* by Elizabeth Hernandez about Will Mundo who studied at CU Denver and graduated from the University of Colorado School of Medicine in 2022 and is now an emergency medicine resident at UCHHealth.

[New funding opportunities webinars](#) in the areas of capacity building assistance, policy and advocacy, sustaining housing solutions, diverse approaches to behavioral health, expanding access to behavioral health, accessing healthy foods, and building food systems sponsored by The Colorado Trust will take place February 9 beginning at 9AM MT.

ECHO Goes Asynchronous. [Check out the ECHO On-Demand library and register today.](#)

[Mental health's in the spotlight](#) is this week's letter from Ben Miller about how the opportunity to act is now.

[Regents University Affairs Committee advances proposals for new degrees, certificates](#) is an article in *Connections, University of Colorado* by Jay Dedrick who writes about the plan for new degrees and certificates at three CU campuses that will serve workforce demand and address the mental health crisis in Colorado and beyond, among other things.

[Everything Comes Alive with Cherry Pie: Stories of Life at the End of Life](#) is a virtual event February 13, 11am-noon MT sponsored by the National Collaborative on Humanities & Ethics in Dentistry and hosted by Marcia Brennan, PhD, professor of religion and art history at Rice University. She will share case studies relating to taste, voice, speech, power, and the uniqueness of human identity.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[How to Keep Loved Ones with Dementia Safe from Firearms](#) is a post on *Brain and Life* by Paul Wynn in which neurologists and public health officials offer advice on how to manage firearms in homes where people have neurologic diseases that can cause confusion and behavioral changes.

[To Build a Culture of Health, We Must See How Culture Shapes Health](#) is an article in *Health Affairs* by Karabi Acharya about how pathogens, systems, and individual choices matter, but our values and social norms affect health as much, if not more.

[Value-Based Care Can Transform the Treatment of Patients with Substance Use Disorder](#) is an article in *Health Affairs* by Robert S. Kaplan and Sarah E. Wakeman about how critical services offered by bridge clinics to those in outpatient settings with substance use disorders are not consistently reimbursable under a fee-for-service payment model.

[Treating Opioid Use Disorder in General Practice – Diagnosis, Harm Reduction, and Medications](#) is video in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by Dr. Sarah Bagley and colleagues in which they review how primary care providers can best care for patients with opioid use disorder.



## POLICY EFFORTS

[Colorado is keeping kids locked in juvenile jails months longer than needed because of lack of foster homes, treatment options](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Jennifer Brown about how legislation calls for \$25 million to expand behavioral health treatment and therapeutic foster care for kids and teens.

[DEA confiscated record amount of fentanyl in 2023, more than 2.6 million pills in Colorado](#) is a post on *The Colorado Sun* by Olivia Prentzel about how fentanyl is now the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 45 according to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

[Toward a Climate-Ready Health Care System: Institutional Motivators and Workforce Engagement](#) is an article in *The Milbank Quarterly* by Caleb Dresser and colleagues who suggest that policies must address institutional barriers to change and create incentives aligned with climate readiness goals, and that institutions and individuals can support climate change readiness by integrating

content on the health care implications of climate change into educational curricula.

[A public-private program has helped Colorado's toughest foster kids get adopted. Now the state is cutting its funding.](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Jennifer Brown about the Wendy's Wonderful Kids program that uses special caseworkers who scour foster children's files for long-lost relatives, former coaches or anyone who might want to adopt them. Funding for this six-year program is not included in next year's proposed budget.

[Ten health policy challenges for the next 10 years](#) is an article in *Health Affairs Scholar* by Kathryn A. Phillips and the rest of the journal editorial team who focus on issues that are traditionally studied by health services researchers such as cost, access, and quality, but then examine emerging and intersectional topics: equity, income, and justice; technology, pharmaceuticals, markets, and innovation; population health; and global health.

[Unlocking the potential of technology-driven solutions in Medicaid](#) is an article in *Health Affairs* by Kate Paris, vice president of policy and advocacy, UnitedHealthcare Community & State, about a [report](#) that address barriers to implementation such as the insufficient funding, staffing limitations and administrative restrictions.



[First-of-its-kind study tests to see if psychedelics can help treat depression](#) is a *9 News* story by Kelly Reinke about a study set to launch this month at CU Anschutz to test if psychedelics can help people cope with depression.

[New Research Shows Mobile Methadone Units are Most Impactful in Rural Areas](#) is a post on the *CU Anschutz Medical Campus* site by Julia Milzer that indicates new research that highlights the importance of expanding access to opioid treatments in remote locations.

[Nearly half of Colorado adults live in a home with a gun, survey finds](#) is a *9 News* story by Kevin Vaughan about how these results will be used to help guide efforts to prevent injuries and deaths.

[Colorado has the nation's third-longest waitlist for people charged with crimes and ordered into psychiatric treatment](#) is an article in *The Colorado Sun* by Jennifer Brown about how Colorado has for years been short on in-patient psychiatric beds for people with severe mental illness, creating a backlog that means people wait months for care and sit in jail instead of a hospital. The number of state-run psychiatric beds for people who are civilly committed or

ordered by the criminal justice system shrunk by 20% in seven years, according to a new report.

[Young Colorado renters need to choose if they'll pay the landlord, the hospital or grandma](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Erica Bruenlin about how a tenant who earns minimum wage would have to work 77 hours per week to afford a one-bedroom apartment at fair market rent.



[Learning Collaborative: Medical-Legal Partnership to Improve Maternal Health Access and Outcomes](#) will provide training/technical assistance to empower participants with a deeper understanding of how the social determinants of health impact maternal health, which begins April 2, 11am-12:30pm MT.

[Legal help as a prescription for health](#) is a post on *AAMC News* by Stacy Weiner about how often there is little doctors can do to address social drivers of health, but that when legal partners are embedded in the health care team, resources can be deployed.

[CHAMPS awarded second million-dollar Duke Endowment grant](#) is a post on the *University of South Carolina Joseph F. Rice School of Law* site by Andersen Cook about a large grant made to CHAMPS to evaluate how MLPs can serve as an equitable child welfare prevention strategy.

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