



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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[The Executive Director of the CU Anschutz Medical Campus Center for Health Equity has been named.](#) Deborah Parra-Medina, PhD, MPH is the inaugural director of this new center effective January 1, 2024, and brings 25 years of research and program development work in disease prevention and public health promotion among diverse populations. She is an epidemiologist by training and comes to Colorado via the Latino Research Institute at the University of Texas at Austin.

[Unlocking understanding](#) is this week's newsletter from Ben Miller about the role of mental health literacy in empowering communities.

[First Rural Midwifery Track Cohort Announced](#) is a post on the *CU College of Nursing* website by Molly Smerika about a program designed to address the maternity deserts, especially in rural areas, by training midwives who will practice in rural areas. The first five students who have been awarded scholarships have been named.



[What Is a Mentor?](#) is a perspective piece in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by Dr. Suzanne Koven about the value of good mentors...people with genuine empathy and firm ego boundaries who understand that mentorship is about the mentee, not the mentor.

[How Personal Stories Inspire State Service: A Conversation with Morissa Henn and Justin Turner](#) is an article on the *Milbank Memorial Funds* site by Drs. Christine Haran and Mary Louise Gilburg in which the authors describe how they work with people with different origin stories than their own to advance policies that improve population health and health equity.

[At a Glenwood Springs Mobile Park, Residents are Working Towards Controlling their Own Destiny](#) is a *Colorado Trust* story by Nancy Lofholm about how a special group of mobile park residents came together to purchase their mobile home park after the death of the owner of many years, and the many challenges that included...“groundbreaking stuff.”



[UCHealth sues thousands of patients every year. But you won't find its name on the lawsuits.](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by John Ingold and Chris Vanderveen that reports that in the last five years patients have been sued 15,710 times for money owed UCHealth. Most of those lawsuits were filed in the name of debt collectors working for the hospital system.

[When Medicaid Unwinding Meets AI: In the Matter of DeLoitte Consulting](#) is an opinion piece in *The Milbank Quarterly* by Sara Rosenbaum that discusses a new lawsuit that alleges that coverage losses in Texas are due, in part, to a flawed eligibility review process driven by DeLoitte's “smart” technology, which is used in approximately 20 states.

[Medicaid's prescription for health includes food and housing in some states](#) is a story in *The Washington Post* by Amy Goldstein about the new face of Medicaid (largest public source of health insurance) as part of an experiment that places North Carolina on the leading edge.

[The Continued Resiliency of the ACA Marketplaces](#) is an opinion piece on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site by Gail R. Wilensky, PhD, economist and senior fellow at Project HOPE, an international health foundation; and she directed the Medicare and Medicaid programs and served in the White House as a senior adviser on health and welfare issues to President George HW Bush. This piece discusses how the ACA's insurance marketplaces have been successful in providing coverage despite the Trump Administration's efforts to undermine the ACA and in the wake of the loss of employer-sponsored insurance triggered by the COVID pandemic.

[Colorado Democrats' attempt to reduce gun violence is colliding with their criminal justice reforms ethos](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Jesse Paul about how the penalty someone faces for stealing a firearm in Colorado depends on how valuable the weapon is. House Bill 1162 would have increased the penalties for stealing a firearm worth only a few hundred dollars.

[Colorado needs to stop and rethink possible changes to the medical aid in](#)

[dying laws](#) is an opinion piece in *The Colorado Sun* by Dr. Thomas J. Perille about how physician-assisted suicide became law in 2016, but how the latest proposal to loosen restrictions could have serious unintended consequences.



[‘Fourth Wave’ of Opioid Epidemic Crashes Ashore, Propelled by Fentanyl and Meth](#) is a story in *KFF Health News* by Colleen DeGuzman about a report from Millennium Health that takes a deep dive into the nation’s drug trends, and breaks usage patterns down by region. It indicates the latest wave involves using multiple substances at the same time, combining fentanyl mainly with either methamphetamine or cocaine.

[Too old to drive?](#) is a post on *LAist* by Laura Bloom about an unprecedented study by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety that will follow 3,000 drivers aged 65 to 79 years for five years. Drivers will be interviewed, their medical history studied, and their cars fitted with GPS tracking devices.

[How Palliative Care Could Help Break the SNF-to-Hospital Cycle](#) is a post in *Hospice News* by Molly Bookner about how a dearth of coordination or integration between rehab teams and palliative care teams routinely forces some patients into a cycle between the hospital and the nursing home in their last year of life.

[Study Examines Impact of Antidepressants on Early Brain Development](#) is a post on the *CU Anschutz Medical Campus* website by Julia Milzer about a study that looked at the impact serotonin has on prefrontal cortex development.



[You’ve Got Housing Rights](#) is a page with resources for protecting a person’s right to safe and livable housing on the *Know Your Housing Rights* website sponsored by Colorado Legal Services, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County, Health Begins and the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership.

[Health Center MLP Planning, Implementation & Practice \(PIP\): Staffing the Legal Services of an MLP – Should We Directly Hire a Lawyer or Contract with Another Organization](#) is a webinar series March 14, 11am-12:30pm MT.

[Empowering Change: Innovating and Scaling for a Healthier Tomorrow in the Face of Emerging Social Determinants of Health \(SDOH\)](#) is a webinar aimed at deepening audiences' understanding of incorporating and scaling innovative practices to address the latest challenges in the social determinants of health (SDOH).

[Innovative Wichita program alleviates the ills of poverty through legal aid](#) is an NPR story by Stefania Lugli about a new GraceMed program that helps patients overcome legal hurdles by addressing five areas for consultation: income, housing, education and employment, legal status (as it pertains to jobs) and personal stability.

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