



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

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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Editor: Linda Niebauer



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[A Path Forward: Thriving in Rural Health Care after COVID-19](#) is the Levitt Distinguished Speaker presentation by Benjamin Anderson April 28<sup>th</sup>, 12-1:30PM MT, sponsored by the CU Department of Family Medicine. Ben is the Vice President of Rural Health Hospitals at the Colorado Hospital Association (CHA). The CHA and the Farley Health Policy Center co-produced the nationally-released rural emergency response playbook, [Re-Imagining Leadership: A Pathway for Rural Health to Thrive in a COVID-19 World](#). For the Zoom link, contact [Linda Niebauer](#).

[COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Implementation Toolkit](#) is a guide for decision-makers and implementers of vaccine clinics...“vaccination clinic in a box” that can be replicated in and tailored to many types of settings produced by the Center for Primary Care Research and Innovation.

To review some of the recent work produced by the Farley Health Policy Center team, [click here](#).

[Resident Recounts Her Son's NICU Battle in Essay for New England Journal of Medicine](#) is a story about an essay published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by a surgical resident at the University of Colorado about how her surgical background made it difficult to bond with her child...about the good and the bad of a medical background.

[SPARK: Robin Williams and His Battle with Lewy Body Dementia](#) is an educational film to include a panel discussion about Robin Williams and his battle with undiagnosed Lewy body dementia to promote community and professional awareness and education to those affected. The public viewing, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1-3PM MT is sponsored by the CU Alzheimer's and Cognition Center.

[ABMS Visiting Scholars Program](#) invites applications for 2021-22, a one-year part-time program that facilitates research that explores best practices and

innovative approaches that address priorities for the certification community (diagnostic error, competency, racial equity and diversity, and quality improvement).

[\*Justice, Health Equity, and Reducing the Digital Divide\*](#) is the focus of this year's Collaborative Family Health Systems' virtual meeting October 20-23 and an in-person meeting October 14-16 in Madison, WI. Abstracts due by 3/15/21.

[\*Physicians for Human Rights\*](#) is sponsoring a webinar to discuss the consequences of mis- and dis-information during the pandemic, how that spread impacts especially at-risk communities, and solutions for mitigating its spread March 5<sup>th</sup>, 11AM MT. It will be moderated by Michael Posner, JD, founder and director of the NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights and the Jerome Kohlberg Professor of Ethics and Finance.

[\*Are You A Belonging Biologist?\*](#) Apply for \$1,000 to support your community project if you have a hypothesis for how to create stronger connections in your neighborhood, a Social Health Labs offering.



[\*Where we are now – in the words of Homer Simpson\*](#) is the title of this week's mental health 411 newsletter from Ben Miller about how COVID-19, shrinking budgets, and worsening mental health make the current moment a "crisitunity" to overhaul our nation's mental health system.

[\*Dr. Deb Saint-Phard Asks All to Choose Compassion Over Prejudice\*](#) is a CBS Denver story by Kathy Walsh that is part of a series, "Elevating Black Voices." Dr. Saint-Phard is the founder and director of the Women's Sports Medicine Program at UHealth.

[\*Why rural hospitals in Colorado are faring better than expected amid the pandemic\*](#) is a story by Robert Garrison for *The Denver Channel* about how none of the state's 43 rural hospitals had to shut down during the pandemic. Benjamin Anderson, VP of Rural Health and Hospitals with the Colorado Health Hospital Association, thanked Colorado's federal Congressional delegation for allocating/advocating for emergency funding last spring that helped many small hospitals remain open.

[\*As Fires Worsen, A Mental Health Crisis for those Battling Them\*](#) is an NPR story by Nathan Rott who writes about how things that once worked...no longer do, how the warming climate is making fire seasons longer, and how it's all putting a growing psychological strain on the firefighters.

[\*10 Creative Ways Organizations Are Supporting the Mental Health of Remote Employees\*](#) is a Forbes story by Christopher Littlefield who highlights unique ways that companies of all sizes have been supporting their people.

[\*Kenneth Cole's Mental Health Coalition Partners with Facebook and Instagram\*](#) is a story on *Women's Wear Dailey* by Lisa Lockwood about a collaboration

that seeks to destigmatize mental health and connect people to resources. The coalition (27 members) was founded by Kenneth Cole, American clothing designer, last May and involves a series of creative experiences designed to engage people on FB and Instagram in conversations around emotional wellness.



## POLICY EFFORTS

[\*Congressional Budget Office Scores Medicare-For-All: Universal Coverage For Less Spending\*](#) is a post on the *Health Affairs Blog* by Adam Gaffney and colleagues that discusses how the CBO has undertaken an economic analysis of single-payer health care reform, a working paper released last month, and includes a rich explanation of methodology with cost projections.

[\*Expanding Congress Will Lead to Better Politics and Better Health Policy\*](#) is a post on *The Milbank Quarterly* by David K. Jones who writes about the importance of the 2022 midterms relative to addressing the health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

[\*College Tuition Sparked a Mental Health Crisis. Then the Hefty Hospital Bill Arrived\*](#) is an NPR story by Jordan Rau who calls out the insurance/system problems in this country for college students, which piles one problem on top of another with no satisfactory help.

[\*Medicaid Forward: Behavioral Health\*](#) is a report from the National Association of Medicaid Directors and the Well Being Trust that provides a framework for states to consider for promoting the health and wellbeing of members, and expand access to behavioral health services, including strategies along a continuum of need, ranging from upstream prevention and health promotion for all Medicaid beneficiaries to increasing access to behavioral health treatment for unique subpopulations in Medicaid.

[\*Medicare Must Cover Mental Health\*](#) is a post on *Real Clear Policy* by Patrick Kennedy, Ben Miller and Kavita Patel who write that any proposal to expand Medicare, without fixing it first (update mental health and addiction benefits), will only serve to perpetuate discriminatory coverage.

[\*Pandemic and climate solutions will fail without a major focus on mental health\*](#) is an opinion piece on *The Hill* by Bob Doppelt who stresses how essential it is that the Biden Administration and Congress must quickly alter thinking and adopt new ways to prevent and health psychological, emotional, and behavioral problems or the country will see a tsunami of destructive individual and collective traumas now and long into the future.

[\*2020 devastated U.S. mental health – healing must be a priority\*](#) is an opinion piece on *The Hill* by Daniel H. Gillison, Jr. and Andy Keller who call out how the mental health crisis is of such historic proportions that failure by legislators and policy makers to shore up an overwhelmed mental health care system could seriously cripple recovery.

[Overdose Response Strategy](#) is a post on the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) site about how this week the Biden-Harris administration announced \$273 million in funding for the HIDTA program to help law enforcement disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking organizations and create critical opportunities for collaboration between public health and public safety.



[\*Primary Care in the United States: A Chartbook of Facts and Statistics\*](#)

describes the current state of primary care in the United States presenting information from a variety of national data sources to answer questions about who, what, where, and how primary care is being delivered.

[\*Quick COVID-19 Primary Care Survey\*](#) results from series 26, fielded 12/12-16, have been posted on the Green Center's site, along with results from previous clinician and patient surveys collected the past year. One alarming statistic gleaned: 52% of clinicians reported that they weekly receive calls from colleagues/patients in a mental health crisis. The next survey will be initiated March 12<sup>th</sup> if you or your clinician colleagues can participate.

[\*How Americans Navigated the News in 2020: A Tumultuous Year in Review\*](#)

reports data gleaned via the Pew Research Center's American News Pathways project (November 2019-December 2020) in which Americans' news habits and attitudes related to what they heard, perceived and knew about the 2020 presidential election and COVID-19...based on 10 different surveys on a nationally representative panel of U.S. adults.

[\*The Opioid Epidemic within the COVID-19 Pandemic: Drug Testing in 2020\*](#) is an article on Mary Ann Liebert Publishers by Justin K. Niles and colleagues who analyzed changes in clinical drug testing patterns and results at a national clinical laboratory, comparing data obtained before and during the pandemic.

[\*Overcoming Barriers to Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder\*](#) is a perspective piece on *JAMA Network* by Dr. Yngvild and colleagues who say, "the goal is to both repeal a policy, DATA 2000, that has long outlived its usefulness and build a sustainable model for practitioner education and training that could improve care and save lives."

[\*Effect of Layperson-Delivered, Empathy-Focused Program of Telephone Calls on Loneliness, Depression, and Anxiety Among Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Randomized Clinical Trial\*](#) is an article on *JAMA Network* by Dr. Maninder K. Kahlon and colleagues whose study was designed to determine if a program of empathetic conversations delivered by laypeople via telephone can reduce loneliness, depression, and anxiety in at-risk adults?

[\*The Opioid Crisis, Fueled by COVID, Is Worse than Ever\*](#) is a *Bloomberg* story by Valerie Bauman and Ian Lopez who provides data about this worsening health crisis.



## MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[\*Patients to Policy Learning Collaboration Part IV: Applying the MLP Approach to Housing – Evictions and City Ordinances\*](#) is a presentation made by Daphne McGee, JD, staff attorney at Houston's Hope about her work on the ground addressing eviction, utility cut-offs, and habitability. She also shares policies and awareness strategies for MLPs to better manage the various issues.

[\*Some doctors can write a prescription for legal services that mean housing for a family\*](#) is a story published some time ago on the *Denverite* site by Donna Bryson about the value of integrating legal resources into medical practices.

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