



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

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 020521

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## NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[\*Psychologist launches #TalkMentalIllness course for the masses\*](#) is a story by Clint Talbott for the *Colorado Art and Sciences Magazine* about how June Gruber, associate professor of psychology and neuroscience at the University of Colorado Boulder, launched a new online class after leading a nationwide “call to action” to address mental health issues in graduate students, flatten the mental-distress curve, and understand first-year student wellness.

*Intersections of Race, Class, and Health* is a year-long lecture series sponsored by the CU Center for Bioethics and Humanities that explores how racism directly and indirectly impacts health and health care in the United States. A virtual tour of a breath-taking art exhibit by Daisy Patton, [“Put Me Back Like they Found Me”](#) depicts the stories of female survivors of horrific, regular practices of forced sterilization in the United States. February 8<sup>th</sup> at noon MT Daisy Patton and others will discuss this exhibit and these women’s stories.

[\*Community Perspectives on the ‘Hows’ of Engagement: Practice Tips from Community Members\*](#) is an opportunity to learn more about how best to engage with community from community members themselves, sponsored by the CU CCTSI/ACCORDS Community Engagement folks February 17<sup>th</sup>, 12-1PM MT.

[\*The real story of Rosa Parks – and why we need to confront myths about Black history\*](#) is a TedTalk by David Ikard who highlights how making the realities of race more benign and digestible harms us all and emphasizes the power and importance of historical accuracy.

[\*Advancing Health Equity\*](#) is a post on *The Commonwealth Fund* site that announces a new initiative, Health Equity Action, created to advance equity in U.S. health care.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[\*A New Way to Help Restaurant Workers' Mental Health\*](#) is a story on *Grub Street* by Chris Crowley who writes about how even before COVID, mental health among folks in the food and beverage industry was a big problem. The author talks about different people/groups/organizations who are creating spaces to make help available for free.

[\*How should you talk to vaccine-skeptical family? These experts have some tips\*](#) is a story in *The Denver Gazette* by Seth Klamann who provides some advice from experts for convincing people to get the vaccination.

[\*Q&A: Psychiatry may play key role in mitigating ongoing political polarization, unrest\*](#) is a story on *Healio* by Joe Gramigna who talks with Dr. Steve Berkowitz, professor, department of psychiatry and pediatrics at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus as well as director of the Stress, Trauma, Adversity Research and Treatment Center about the link between mental health and political unrest, how psychiatrists can approach treatment in an age of heightened division, and whether psychiatrists can address radicalization at the ends of the political spectrum.

[\*Extraordinary Moments in Primary Care during COVID\*](#) is a list of experiences collected by folks at The Larry A. Green Center last year from primary care clinicians across the country.

[\*To Improve COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution, Engage Behavioral Health Providers\*](#) is a post on the *Health Affairs Blog* by Jonathan D. Brown who suggests that as states refine their plans to distribute COVID-19 vaccines, they should engage behavioral health providers to develop strategies to reach the populations they serve and who are trusted advisers well-positioned to educate their clients about the benefits and who can link them to vaccination sites.

[\*The Pandemic Is Taking a Toll on Kids' Mental Health. School Psychologists Are Worried.\*](#) Is a *WPR* story by Madeline Fox who highlights how pandemic stress and grief adds another layer of pressure on virtual and in-person learners.



## POLICY EFFORTS

[\*Understanding Suicide Risk and Prevention\*](#) is a policy brief in *Health Affairs* by Ben Miller and M. Justin Coffey who stress how suicide is a preventable public health threat requiring a multi-sectoral response and how more work is needed to disseminate promising prevention strategies in the health care, criminal justice, and education sectors.

[\*In Denver, getting the coronavirus vaccine may depend on where you live\*](#) is a

story in *The Colorado Sun* by Jennifer Brown and John Ingold about how the vaccine disparity is statewide, with a higher proportion of whites getting vaccinated; and what the public health workers and equity task forces are doing about it.

[\*The Communication Infrastructure as a Social Determinant of Health: Implications for Health Policymaking and Practice\*](#) is an article posted in *The Milbank Quarterly* by Taylor Goulbourne and Itzhak Yanovitzky who make the case for considering the communication infrastructure as a social determinant of health, and to discuss the potential implications of this for public health policy and practice.

[\*The American Rescue Plan Does Not Provide Relief to Nation's Poorest, Uninsured Americans\*](#) is a story on *The Commonwealth Fund* site by Sara Rosenbaum who calls out how Biden's plan makes much-needed improvements in access to affordable marketplace coverage, but the proposal fails to address a striking health inequity: the lack of a pathway to affordable health insurance for the poorest Americans living in states that refuse to expand Medicaid.

[\*Biden's Healthcare Agenda in 2021: Shoring Up the Affordable Care Act\*](#) is a Forbes story by Joshua Cohen who writes about how changes to public programs, including the ACA, Medicare, and public health are in the offing.

[\*How Are Payment Reforms Addressing Social Determinants of Health? Policy Implications and Next Steps\*](#) is an issue brief posted on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site by Hannah L. Crook and colleagues who summarize the current landscape of payment reform initiatives addressing social determinants of health.

[\*What's Wrong with You?\*](#) is an essay in *JAMA* by Caren J. Blacker that discusses the discrimination physicians with disabilities face in their own environment, and how this discrimination reflects a deeper lack of compassion and understanding in the field.

[\*The Rehab Racket: Investigating the high cost of addiction care\*](#) is a *Vox* story by German Lopez who investigates America's failing and notoriously opaque addiction treatment industry, which affects thousands of people each year.



[\*A Parallel Pandemic Hits Health Care Workers: Trauma and Exhaustion\*](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Andrew Jacobs about how vaccines may be on the way, but many on the frontlines are burned out and feeling unappreciated; and how little the federal government has done related to the workforce challenges.

[\*COVID-19 vaccination for people with severe mental illness: why, what, and how?\*](#) is an article in *The Lancet* by Dr. Victor Mazereel and colleagues who discuss the risk for worse COVID-19 outcomes in people with severe mental

illness.

[\*Maternal mental health during the COVID-19 lockdown in China, Italy, and the Netherlands: a cross-validation study\*](#) reports study results on *Cambridge.org* by Jing Guo and colleagues who aimed to compare factors predicting maternal mental health during the COVID-19 lockdown in China, Italy, and the Netherlands.

[\*COVID's mental-health toll: how scientists are tracking a surge in depression\*](#) is a story in *Nature* by Alison Abbott who writes how researchers are using huge data sets to link changes in mental health to coronavirus-response measures.

[\*Study: Doctors' negative views of disabled patients affect quality of care\*](#) is a story in the *Atlantic Journal-Constitution* by Nancy Clanton who reports on study results that found doctors' negative perceptions of disabled patients so widespread they called it "disturbing."

[\*Employee mental health is plummeting one year into the pandemic\*](#) is a post on the *Employee Benefit Adviser* site by Alyssa Place who provides statistics that demonstrate an additional crisis for employers struggling to address the challenges of COVID-19.

[\*We are failing with COVID, let's not fail on mental health\*](#) is an opinion piece on *The Hill* by Ben Miller who appeals to our political leaders to step up with courage, vision and creativity to embrace true reform for mental health and addiction.



[\*COVID-19 Vaccines: What Businesses Need to Know\*](#) is a webinar recording from the Greater Cleveland Partnership that provides facts and information for businesses to help guide future decision-making that will directly impact their operations and workforce.

[\*Loyola launches Maywood Medical-Legal Partnership\*](#) is a post on the Loyola School of Law site about the launch of its medical legal partnership created to support underserved populations the first of the month. This is a partnership among Loyola University of Chicago School of Law's Health Justice Project, Loyola Medicine, Stritch School of Medicine, the Maywood MLP that serves patients of the Loyola Center for Health on Roosevelt.

[\*Office for A2J Could Be Revived Under Biden\*](#) is a post on the *Law 360* site by Cara Bayles who discusses how this office that sought to get everyone a fair shake in the court system and was shuttered the second year of the Trump administration, is planned to be revived either through legislation or through the less permanent but less difficult route of executive action.

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