



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

[*Unified Voice, Unified Vision, Changing Primary Care Finance*](#) is an unprecedented move in which seven national primary care organizations (facilitated by the Larry A. Green Center and X4 Health) launched a joint vision to rewire primary care financing. This collaboration comes at a critical time when the health of the population has weakened, and the primary care setting has been severely strained by COVID-19. Cheers to 2021!

[*Unsung Heroes: Denver Artists Celebrated Medical Workers through 2020*](#) is a story in *Westword* by Kyle Harris about the cultural phenomena that sprung out of the pandemic.

[*STUDY: Birds are Linked to Happiness Levels*](#) is a story on *Return to Now* about data from the 2012 European Quality of Life Survey that showed that the greater diversity of birds we are surrounded by, the better our quality of life.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[*COVID-19 and Public Health: Modeling, Silver Linings and 'Colorado's Dr. Fauci'*](#) contains reflections from Dr. Jon Samet, dean, Colorado School of Public Health and Dr. Glen Mays, chair of the department of health systems, management, and policy in the Colorado School of Public Health. This piece is about how public health has changed forever in the wake of the pandemic, and how that better prepares us for the next one.

[*Masks, Social Distancing for COVID Prevention Contribute to Fewer Flu Cases in Colorado*](#) is a story by Karen Morfitt for *4CBS Denver* who reports that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment says it is seeing a

lower number of flu cases than usual for this time of year.

[*Older Coloradans Are Making New Holiday Traditions as Coronavirus Keeps Them Isolated*](#) is a CPR story by Claire Cleveland about how folks are adjusting and being resourceful and creative about spending the holidays in COVID times.

[*What really matters at the end of life*](#) is a Ted Talk by BJ Miller who asks big questions about how we think about death and honor life.

[*WESTFALL: Suicide isn't painless*](#) is an opinion piece by Tom Westfall, Jack Westfall's brother, who writes about the increase in deaths by suicide and the power of connectivity.

[*You Can Get through This Dark Pandemic Winter Using Tips from Disaster Psychology*](#) is an article in *Scientific American* by Melinda Wenner Moyer about coping strategies people can use amid catastrophes considering surging deaths and strained mental health.

[*Could Venues and Airlines Require COVID-19 Vaccinations for Entry?*](#) is a story in *Rolling Stone* by Elizabeth Yuko who writes about ethical implications of private vaccine mandates.



[*Why America can't rely solely on individuals to stop COVID-19*](#) is a *Vox* story by German Lopez about how the countries that defeated the coronavirus have done so collectively, America's inability to address structural problems, and how it's easier to blame individuals than to fix big systemic problems requiring political and financial capital.

[*Medicare Must Cover Mental Health*](#) is a story in *Real Clear Policy* by Patrick Kennedy, Ben Miller and Kavita Patel who call out how Congress has failed to update Medicare's discriminatory mental health and addiction benefits to keep pace with rapidly evolving scientific knowledge and public perception around these illnesses.

[*The Error of Fighting a Public Health War with Medical Weapons*](#) is a story in *Wired* that points out how the schism...the conflict between public health and private well-being, between personal liberties and communal gain...is as old as pandemics.

[*Obamacare, in Its First Big Test as Safety Net, Is Holding Up So Fair*](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Margot Sanger-Katz and colleagues about how job losses and the loss of insurance have typically gone hand in hand, but how this year, more Americans are staying covered.

[*For young Californians, climate change is a mental health crisis too*](#) is a story in the *Los Angeles Times* by Brian Contreras about how young people often experience more fear, sadness and anger regarding climate change than their

older counterparts, as well as an increased sense of helplessness or hopelessness.

[*Colorado medical and law schools see surge in applications*](#) is a story by Nicole Brady for *The Denver Channel* about how medical schools around the country have seen a surge in applications this year...the University of Colorado has seen a 35% increase over last year.

[*14 Top CEOs Warn of Looming Mental Health Crisis and Offer a Holistic 'Roadmap to Recovery'*](#) is a *Forbes* story by Naz Beheshti about policy proposals put forth by a coalition of leaders.

[*Startups look to bridge disparities in mental healthcare*](#) is a story in *MedCity News* by Elise Reuter about how Hurdle Health, a mental health startup, that set out to bring culturally competent therapy to Black men is promoting the need to address systemic racism in our country in all its forms.



[*Quick COVID-19 Primary Care Survey: Series 24*](#) is the summary of the Green Center's and PCC's survey results fielded December 11-15, 2020. 60% of clinicians who responded reported that their patients' health, unrelated to COVID-19, has worsened.

[*Trustworthiness before Trust – COVID-19 Vaccine Trials and the Black Community*](#) is an article in the *New England Journal of Medicine* by Dr. Rueben C. Warren and colleagues who talk about the barriers to greater participation of Black people in COVID-19 trials, and how trustworthiness, not trust, must be our first and most urgent priority going forward.

[*COVID-19 is taking a heavy toll in America's mental health-care deserts*](#) is an article in *National Geographic* by Rebecca Renner who writes about how the workforce is inadequate to treat everyone in need.

[*The State of Teen Well Being: 60 Percent of Teens Not Flourishing*](#) discusses findings from a new report produced by Academy Health, ACT for Health, and Well Being Trust that found that enhanced teen-focused health policies at local, state and federal levels of government will contribute greatly to the larger enterprise of healing the nation for all, yet current national investment in adolescent is lacking.

[*Both Remote and On-Site Workers are Grappling with Serious Mental Health Consequences of COVID-19*](#) is a post on the *Kaiser Family Foundation* site by Rabah Kamal and colleagues about provides data that emphasizes how both the human and fiscal impact of the pandemic's toll on worker mental health will be important for employers and legislators to consider in determining the needs of the workforce through the remainder of the pandemic and beyond.

[*The geography of desperation in America: Labor force participation, mobility, place, and well-being*](#) is an article in *Social and Medicine* by Carol Graham and

Sergio Pinto about well-being heterogeneities across race and income groups and estimated associations between these markers and higher rates of death of despair at the county level.



MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[*Laying the Foundation for Lawyers on the Health Center Team Part II: Funding, MoUs & Sustainability*](#) is the second part of the toolkit-inspired webinar series posted on the *National Center for Medical Legal Partnership* site that provides different types of funding, components of memorandums of understanding, and sustainability.

[*Webinar: New Medical-Legal Partnership Practices and Strategies in Agricultural Worker Communities*](#) is a webinar sponsored by The National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership and Farmworker Justice that features issue experts presenting best practices and strategies for employing the MLP model to serve agricultural worker communities.



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