



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

COVID-19 vaccination efforts in Colorado have been outpacing the rollout in some states. [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 Tracker](#) shows that Colorado has received 381,775 doses of vaccine, and 145,164 shots have been administered.

[*Playing Resiliency: Theatrical Interventions Engaging Burnout & Secondary Traumatic Stress*](#) is part of a 2021 lecture series: Enhancing Wellness for Healthcare Professionals through Engagement with the Arts sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts Research Labs, CU School of Medicine. The January 22nd noon-1PM MT event will focus on alleviating burnout and promoting wellness for healthcare professionals through engagement with creative arts therapy.

[*Twitterverse & More*](#) is designed to be a casual and fun discussion January 28th 11:30-12:30PM MT with Katie Klossner and Jewel Midelis at the University of Colorado about how best to use Twitter and LinkedIn to promote you and/or your research.

[*Day of Service*](#) is a virtual community event sponsored by Well Being Trust, Inseparable, and the Kennedy Forum January 18th 10-11AM MT to learn how to be an advocate for mental health reform in service to bring about necessary change across systems, to advance coverage, community, and care solutions that improve mental health and substance use outcomes in the United States.

[*New acting administrator for SAMHSA*](#) announced...Capt. Meena Vythilingam, MD.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[*Dear White People*](#) is a call to action, from Krys E. Foster and colleagues (including Dr. Cleveland Piggott, Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion for the CU Department of Family Medicine) in *Annals of Family Medicine*, to join them in actively combating racism in medicine and society at large.

[*Overdose Deaths Far Outpace COVID-19 Deaths in San Francisco*](#) is a *U.S. News* story from December about the staggering number of drug overdoses in 2020 (621) compared with COVID-19 deaths (173), a crisis fueled by the painkiller fentanyl.

[*How librarians are looking out for kids' mental health during the pandemic*](#) is a story by Arielle Harrison for *2KUTV* in Utah about how libraries across the state are becoming safe spaces for kids navigating the pandemic.

[*These neighborly havens help people facing mental health crises. Some neighbors object*](#) is a story in the *Los Angeles Times* by Sarah Kwon who writes about "Second Story," a mental health program based in a home where folks get support from those who have faced similar challenges in a peaceful environment.

[*Federal Health Care in need of help as staff members test positive for COVID-19, one dies*](#) is a story on *The Denver Channel* by Ivan Rodriguez about a clinic on Federal Blvd. in NW Denver that cares for a very disenfranchised, marginalized, and vulnerable section of society that is in dire straits given how hard hit he and his staff have been by the pandemic.

[*Pharmacists on the Front Lines: As Vaccines Arrive, Pharmacists Play Critical Role*](#) is a story on the CU Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences site by Lori Westermann who interviews Dr. Ty Kiser, clinical pharmacy professor and critical care pharmacist in the ICU at UHealth who discusses the rapid-fire learning in real time...taking new discoveries directly from the hospital to the classroom.



[*Ways and Means Democrats Release Framework to Achieve Health and Economic Equity*](#) is a press release from the Ways & Means Committee that reports how the committee is demonstrating unprecedented commitment to tackling issues of inequity in Congress, a cross-sector collaboration focused on people who need help.

[*Capitol Chaos Unsettles a Nation Already Battered by Disease and Unrest*](#) is a story posted on the *CU Anschutz Medical Campus* site in which Dr. Steve Berkowitz, professor of psychiatry at the CU School of Medicine, discusses the fallout of the riotous overtaking of the U.S. Capitol last week...an unprecedented act that tested a nation already weary from a months-long pandemic punctuated by political turmoil and social unrest.

[*POINT/COUNTERPOINT: Have Colorado's COVID policies done more harm or good? \(copy\)*](#) is a story in *The Gazette* by Dr. Jonathan Samet, a pulmonary

physician and epidemiologist and Dean of the Colorado School of Public Health, as well as Farley Center steering committee member; Jude Bayham, an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University; and Carrie Geitner, El Paso County Commissioner, District 2 who discuss the tangible and intangible costs of decisions made relative to the pandemic on society.

[*Medicaid and Child Health Equity*](#) is an opinion piece by Dr. James M. Perrin and colleagues in *The New England Journal of Medicine* who suggest structural changes to Medicaid to make access universal for children, ensure stable and adequate funding, and address Medicaid's historically low payment rates.

[*Feeling Blue? Oregon Students Allowed to Take 'Mental Health Days'*](#) is an NPR story by Dani Matias about Oregon teens who suggested legislation to allow students to take mental health days as they would sick days that was signed into law last month.

[*Get Ready for a Lot of Biden Executive Orders on Health Care*](#) is a story by Larry Levitt on *Jama Network* about healthcare possibilities for this administration starting with undoing what was done by the Trump administration to sabotage the ACA.



[*Optimizing Telehealth during COVID: Listening to the Primary Care Voice*](#) is an ECHO Colorado and Farley Health Policy Center brief about valuable lessons learned from frontline primary care clinicians in real time related to telehealth.

[*Transforming Mental Health Care in the United States*](#) is a research brief posted on the *Rand Corporation* site by Ryan K. McBain and colleagues who interviewed mental health experts throughout the country to develop recommendations for transforming the U.S. mental health care system, and to pinpoint opportunities to drive systemic improvements.

[*The Need for New Cost Measures in Pediatric Value-Based Payments*](#) is an article in *Pediatrics* by Nathaniel Z. Counts and colleagues about the missed opportunity the lack of child-focused APMs represents given the value of early life interventions that can improve children's cognitive and behavioral development resulting in reduced costs over a lifetime.

[*Nearly Half of ICU Staff Working through Pandemic Have Mental Health Issues, U.K. Study Shows*](#) is a *Forbes* story by Robert Hart who reports on a study that indicates almost half of healthcare staff working in ICUs in England could be suffering from problem drinking, severe anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder.

[*Price Transparency and Variation in U.S. Health Services*](#) is an issue brief posted on the *Peterson-KFF Health System Tracker* by Nisha Kurani and colleagues that summarizes the key requirements for hospitals, insurers, and

self-funded employer plans under the new price transparency rules.

[*New “Pandemic Grief Scale” identifies dysfunctional grief associated with the loss of a loved one to COVID-19*](#) is a story on *PsyPost* by Beth Ellwood about a new psychometric assessment tool to screen for dysfunctional grief after the loss of a loved one during the pandemic.

[*A Step to Ease the Pandemic Mental Health Crisis*](#) is a story in *Scientific American* by the editors about a technique known as psychological first aid that could help reduce COVID stress and anxiety.

[*Caregivers in Crisis: Caregiving in the Time of COVID-19*](#) is a report out of the Rosalyn Carter Institute for Caregiving that studied caregiving in the time of COVID-19 with support from the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation. The study aimed to understand the direct experience of caregivers, particularly changes in and causes of stress, since the beginning of the pandemic to amplify lived experiences, inform program activities to support caregivers, and to build commitment to public and workplace policy to support caregivers.



MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[*Patients-to-Policy Learning Collaborative Part I – An introduction to Health, Housing, and the Role of MLPs*](#) is a presentation by Prof. Joel Teitelbaum and co-Director at the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership who provided an overview of housing as a social determinant of health and the essential role played by MLPs in addressing the current housing crisis.

[*Literature review: Making the case for medical-legal partnerships, 2013-2020*](#) is a literature review posted on the *National Center for Medical Legal Partnership* site by Caitlin Murphy that demonstrates MLP partnerships' impact improving.



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