



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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<https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/farleyhealthpolicycenter>



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

Check out what's new on the [Farley Health Policy Center site](#).

[Can you still feel the butterflies?](#) is the title of this week's newsletter from Ben Miller about the power of music on mental health.

Live town hall with Sen. John Hickenlooper to take place January 3rd, 6-6:30PM MT. [Click here to register](#). Hear about his first year in the Senate and what he's planning.

[University of Colorado College of Nursing State of the College Address 2022](#) is an opportunity to hear from Dean Elias Provencio-Vasquez about what has been happening in the College of Nursing as well as plans for what's to come.

[Children's Hospital hires first-ever chief of mental health after declaring state of emergency](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Jennifer Brown that introduces Dr. K. Ron-Li Liaw, and her goals to create "developmentally sensitive" mental health checkups for all kids and the hospital's "pivot" to mental health.

[The Anti-Stigma Campaign Project](#) aims to engage with Denver community members to better understand stigma associated with substance use, suicide, and mental health conditions to reduce stigma and increase access to care. As part of the effort, the campaign is conducting a survey to measure attitudes and beliefs toward mental health conditions. They are especially interested in hearing from those with lived experience; however, any Denver resident can participate to share their perceptions. The survey can accommodate multiple languages and those who complete the survey will receive a **\$5 gift card**. Feel free to share widely.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[The COVID-19 Pandemic: Light at the end of the Omicron tunnel?](#) is the title of this week's Coronavirus commentary by Dean Jon Samet in which he expresses optimism for the short-term and is more guarded for the long-term because of the specter of further mutations.

[Your guide to getting a free COVID rapid test – from Colorado, the feds, or your insurance company](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by John Ingold who provides three ways Coloradans can score free rapid tests.

[Could liquor stores be a solution to Colorado's food deserts?](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Jesse Paul about how liquor stores are currently limited in how much revenue they can make from selling food products. Senate Bill 33 would change that.

[Campaign targets people of color to help end drug addiction disparities](#) is a story by Elizabeth Ruiz for Fox 13 about a campaign designed to reach and help people of color learn about and access essential social support systems to achieve recovery from substance addictions.

[Parents and caregivers of young children say they've hit pandemic rock bottom](#) is an *NPR* story by Anya Kamenetz about the myriad challenges and uncertainties parents and caretakers of children (under five years old) experience/are expected to navigate.

[Opinion: The mental-health emergency facing Colorado's children demands an emergency response](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Paul Summergrad and Ben Miller about how the mental health infrastructure in our nation and in Colorado is woefully underfunded and tragically underbuilt.

[Cleveland County YMCA to add mental health services](#) is a story on *The Star* by Rebecca Sitzes about how a local Y in Cleveland is one of a handful in the nation stepping up to address the issue with plans to add an on-site licensed therapist to their staff beginning this year.



POLICY EFFORTS

[Polis defends lowering preschool teacher requirements, says it's "small piece" of state's expansion plan](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Erica Breunlin that discusses concerns of critics that the scaled back standards will place inexperienced teachers in classrooms, undermining the quality of preschool programs.

[It's quite a country when Mark Cuban, not Congress, will give Americans cheaper prescription drugs](#) is a post on Deadspin by Grace McDermott that

discusses how the owner of the Mavs is offering his own generic brand to combat price gouging by Big Pharma.

[Youth's overdose death renews pleas for Narcan in schools](#) is a *KMTV* story about how the death of a Connecticut seventh grader from an apparent fentanyl overdose has renewed calls for schools to carry the opioid antidote naloxone.

[Mental health: Build predictive models to steer policy](#) is a story in *Nature* by Jo-An Occhipinti and colleagues who argue that a systems-modeling approach like that used in Australia, New Zealand, and Taiwan where decision-makers worked closely and cooperatively with modelers to inform timely, decisive, and effective responses to the pandemic should be used to tackle the mental health challenge.

[Regulators Say Health Plans Miss the Mark on Mental Health Parity](#) is a story on *SHRM* by Stephen Miller who writes how failures to equally cover mental and physical health are common.

[Why Aren't Value-Based Payment Models More Successful? A Failure to Confront Market Dynamics](#) is an article in *Health Affairs* by Hoangmai H Pham and Amol S. Navathe that discusses how health plans and insurance companies are falling short of providing parity in mental health and substance use disorder benefits, at a time when those benefits are needed like more than ever.

[With New Report, Biden Administration Takes on Insurers Over Mental Health Failings](#) is a post on *Mind Site News* by Don Sapatkin about how the Biden administration “unleashed an aggressive and public opening salvo” earlier this week in what it pledges will be a sustained effort to compel U.S. health insurers to pay for mental health services on par with the way they cover physical health care.

[Biden's signature legislation expired. Recipients are wondering: WTF happened?](#) is a post on *Politico* by Adam Cancryn about how the extended child tax credit was a lifeline for many, now it's gone, and how lawmakers are scrambling to find a way to reinstate it.



[Clinical Outcomes Among Patients with 1-Year Survival Following Intensive Care Unit Treatment for COVID-19](#) is an article in *JAMA Network* by Dr. Hidde Heesakkers and colleagues who set out to assess the occurrence of physical, mental, and cognitive symptoms among patients with COVID-19 at one year after ICU treatment.

[The Effectiveness of Policies to Improve Primary Care Access for Underserved Populations: An Assessment of the Literature](#) is a report on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site by Maanasa Kona and colleagues in which the authors reviewed the research literature to assess the evidence supporting whether

policy initiatives targeting primary care access in each of these five dimensions have been effective in reducing health care disparities.

[Research Finds Patients and Providers Differ in Opinions about Immediate Access to Medical Records](#) is a post on the CU Anschutz site by Rachel Sauer about a 21st Century Cures Act requirement that gives patients immediate access to electronic medical records that causes some clinicians to worry about added stress for patients.

[Teachers Are Experiencing a Mental Health Crisis Too](#) is a post on *Very Well Health* by Mira Miller about how new research reveals that teachers are facing a similar mental health crisis to students without the requisite access to support.

[Fentanyl is everywhere, increasing overdoses in the South](#) is a story on *North Carolina Health News* by Taylor Knopf about how Fentanyl, a strong synthetic opioid being mixed in the street drug supply, has caused more overdose deaths, emergency department visits and EMS calls during the pandemic.

[The Quintuple Aim for Health Care Improvement: A New Imperative to Advance Health Equity](#) is an opinion piece by Dr. Shantanu Nundy and colleagues that suggests that the pursuit of health equity should be elevated as the fifth aim for health care improvement.

[Students Embrace Peer Mental Health Counseling](#) is a story on *Inside Higher Ed* by Maria Carrasco about findings from a new survey that indicates increased interest in peer mental health counseling. Experts say it can help alleviate overburdened campus services, but they stress the importance of proper training.



[Just Health: A Medical Legal Partnership to Health Structural Racism](#) is an online event February 17th, 2-3PM MT that features Dr. Dayna Bowen Matthew, Dean and Harold H. Greene Professor of Law, George Washington University of Law School, and the author of the forthcoming book, *Just Health: Treating Structural Racism to Health America*.

[Good News on Social Determinants of Health through Preventing Tenant Evictions](#) is an opinion piece posted on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site by John E. McDonough, professor of public health practice at the Harvard School of Public Health, in which Dr. McDonough touts the merits of a 9-step housing stability program that emphasizes four strategies: resident education and engagement, 2) upstream intervention and coordinated financial assistance, 3) integrated payment plans and interactive mediation, and 4) accountable housing stabilization goal development.

[Essentials of Health Justice: Law, Policy, and Structural Change](#) is a book written by Elizabeth Tobin-Tyler and Joel B. Teitelbaum that discusses both the systems and policies that influence health care professionals, lawyers, and

lay people.

[Vital Housing Investments in Build Back Better Act at Risk of Elimination – Take Action!](#) is a post on the *National Low Income Housing Coalitions* site that reports that housing is not included in the current set of priorities for a reformulated reconciliation bill and that it is critical that advocates urge our Congress to protect and advance the bill's historic investments in rental assistance, public housing and the Housing Trust Fund as part of any reconciliation bill that advances.



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