



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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Editor: Linda Niebauer

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



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

In partnership with the Well Being Trust and the University of Colorado Practice Innovation Program, the Farley Health Policy Center produced a report, [The Building Blocks of Behavioral Health Integration: A Framework for Care Delivery Expectations](#), that provides flexible options for primary care clinics to integrate behavioral health services to be utilized as part of alternative payment models supporting whole-person care. This framework, released this week, is designed to provide the needed balance of standardization and flexibility for this work.

This week's message from the University of Colorado School of Medicine dean, Dr. John Reilly: *The pandemic reminded us that much of what determines a person's health lies outside the traditional practice of medicine. These factors are sometimes called the social determinants of health. We talk a lot about the promise of personalized medicine, but the sad and undeniable reality is that your ZIP code is more predictive of your health and longevity than your genetic code. As a result, medical professionals have an obligation to speak up for our patients. Though it is popular for some to tell us to stay in our lane when talking about social issues, I would answer that we as a profession have an obligation to address all factors affecting the health of our patients whether they fall under the traditional definition of medical practice.*

[Our Mental Health and Addiction Crisis is its Own National Tragedy](#) is this week's newsletter from Ben Miller about how focusing on mental health never lasts the way it should...we move on to whatever is next in the news cycle, yet problems remain and millions suffer.

[University of Colorado administrators announced this week that Dr. Jon Samet, dean of Colorado School of Public Health, will resign when a successor is found.](#) He forged strong partnerships with the state, the Colorado Department of Health and Environment and local health departments, making the school an integral player in the state's response to COVID-19. Dr. Samet will remain with

the university as a faculty member.

[Psychiatry Pathway Program Opens Doors to Critically Needed Careers](#) is a story on the *CU Anschutz Medical Campus* site by Matthew Hastings about a program that provides undergraduate students, considering future careers in health sciences, opportunities to work directly with patients and to conduct research.

[The COVID-19 Pandemic: Colorado's curve continues to wander up, more Florida follies, and local action on gun control](#) is this week's commentary from Dr. Jon Samet.



[CU Nursing Legends Credited for Developing National Residency Model](#) is a story on the *College of Nursing* site by Bob Mook about how Drs. Colleen Goode and Mary Krugman built a program that helps nurses succeed nationwide, reducing attrition in nursing over the years.

[As maternal mortality rate rises, Colorado health organizations tackle mental health and drug abuse](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Brammhi Balarajan about how some initiatives are responding with programs offering mental health care and help with substance misuse given how COVID-19 pushed maternal death rates higher nationwide.

[The construction industry has a high suicide rate. Experts gathered in Denver to find a solution.](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Tatiana Flowers that addresses the suicide rate, depression, anxiety, substance use disorders and other mental health issues among those who work in the construction world. Recently a psychologist, Sally Spencer-Thomas, convened a Denver conference to bring attention to the issue, discuss root causes, examine lessons learned and develop possible ways to prevent suicides and other mental health problems in the industry.

[Improving Behavioral Health Care for Older Americans: If Not Now, When?](#) is an article in *Health Affairs* by Alexa Fleet and colleagues about the challenges of caring for older patients with behavioral health problems.



[Colorado has pushed for years to combine mental health and medical care. Some new laws and money should help.](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Jennifer Brown about how health clinics, doctors' offices and community colleges can tap into coronavirus relief funds to improve mental health offerings and train workers.

[The infrastructure Bill – Investing in Environmental Justice & Health Equity](#) is an opinion piece on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site by Simar Singh Bajaj and colleagues who write that despite recent policy initiatives to support the environmental health of vulnerable communities, current efforts are limited in scope and require a revised framework with explicit focus on health equity and environmental justice. The authors suggest that health care professionals are uniquely positioned to enact this framework and protect the environmental health of vulnerable communities.

[Zornio: Pride Month is a stark reminder of how basic rights could be lost](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Trish Zornio about how Colorado holds a special badge of honor as the state currently ranking highest in America for LGBTQ+equality, a significant win for a state formerly known as the “hate state” in part due to the hard work of activists...a reminder that our voices matter.

[Wit v. United Behavioral Health](#) is a landmark case, potentially setting a precedent for how care will be covered by Americans seeking treatment for mental health and addiction.

[A Bi-Directional Approach to Bring Together Public Health and Mental Health](#) is a YouTube video in which Mary Giliberti talks with Ben Miller and Thomas Steinberg as part of the 2022 Policy Institute event designed to explore how mental health and public health can work together better.

[Well Being Trust has joined 59 organizations](#) calling on policymakers to pass meaningful, bipartisan solutions that promote gun safety for us all.

[A Mental Health Clinic in School? No, Thanks, Says the School Board](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Ellen Barry about the idea of expanding mental health services in schools, which sailed through the CT legislature but ran into resistance at the Board of Education, mostly on the grounds that it infringed upon the rights of parents.



[Addressing Inequities in the Quality of Mental Health Care: Immediate-Term Policy Solutions](#) is a post on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site by Noah Triplett and Jasmine L. Blanks Jones about the authors’ research with community mental health clinicians in Washington State that has highlighted the importance of training and supporting clinicians to effectively work with Black, Indigenous and People of Color clients.

[On gun violence, the United States is an outlier](#) is a story on the *Institute for Medicine Metrics and Evaluation* site that provides data/graphs published a year ago in JAMA that shows how grotesquely the United States stands out among 64 high-income countries and territories for its high levels of gun violence.

[Evidence concerning the regulation of firearms design, sale, and carrying on fatal mass shootings in the United States](#) is an article in *Criminology & Public Policy* by Daniel W. Webster and colleagues whose findings suggest that laws requiring firearm purchases to be licensed through a background check process supported by fingerprints and laws banning large-capacity magazines are the most effective gun policies for reducing fatal mass shootings.

[CDC Firearm Mortality by State](#) is an interactive graphic depicting firearm mortality posted on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention site.

[Opinion: Guns come too easily into young, troubled hands](#) is a perspective piece in *The Colorado Sun* by Maya Haasz in which the author raises these questions...how can an 18-year-old purchase an AR-15 days after his 18th birthday...how we so callously and repeatedly allow innocent lives to be lost in the pursuit of unfettered access to firearms...how those in Congress refuse to enact laws supported by most Americans that would decrease the mounting death toll of firearm violence???? It's past time to demand and expect more than thoughts and prayers.

[Patients Seek Mental Health Care from their Doctor but Find Health Plans Standing in the Way](#) is a post on *Kaiser Health News* by Aneri Pattani about how everyone is talking about integrating physical and mental health, but if clinicians are not being paid to do it...it doesn't happen.

[Demographics and Health Insurance Coverage of Nonelderly Adults with Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorders in 2020](#) is an issue brief published on the *Kaiser Family Foundation* site by Heather Saunders and Robin Rudowitz that uses 2020 data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health to examine key characteristics, coverage and health status of nonelderly adults with mental illness or substance use disorders to help inform ongoing federal and state efforts to improve quality and expand access.



[Understanding the No Surprises Act & the Role of MLPs in Helping Patients](#) is a post on the *National Center for Medical Legal Partnerships* site is a YouTube presentation that aimed to help clarify the provisions of the act and how MLPs can help patients navigate complex system of care, coverage and payment.

[Ending Surprise Medical Bills](#) is a resource on CMS.gov about the new rules that aim to protect people from surprise medical bills and remove consumers from payment disputes between a provider or health care facility and their health plan.



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