



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

*The IRS will delay tax filing due date until May 1<sup>st</sup>.*

[Community Conversation: Hate Crimes Against Asian Communities](#) is a co-sponsored virtual event March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6-7PM MT.

[Moral Integrity and the COVID-Response Workforce](#) will be a panel discussion March 24<sup>th</sup>, 12-1:30PM MT about innovations in addressing moral distress, injury and resilience sponsored by the CU Center for Bioethics and Humanities.

[Public Health H.E.R.O.E.S.](#) is the theme (health, equity, resiliency, outcomes, engagement and safety) for the 2021 Public Health in the Rockies conference August 25-27, 2021 at the Keystone Resort & Conference Center in Colorado sponsored by the Colorado Public Health Association. Abstracts are due April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The application process for the 2021-22 *Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism* is now open. For more information and to apply [click here](#).



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[What if mental health workers responded to emergency calls?](#) Is a *Ted Talk* by Leslie Herod, Colorado State Representative who shares a straightforward and research-backed approach that brings heart and humanity to criminal justice rather than unnecessary fines and arrests...and keeps crises from escalating into traumatic, or even deadly events.

[\*Virtual behavioral healthcare skyrocketed last year as COVID-19 stressed U.S. mental health\*](#) is an issue brief posted on *Healthcare Dive* by Rebecca Pifer who discusses how before 2020, 1% or fewer of all behavioral health visits were conducted virtually and in May and June of 2020, as many as 75% of those visits among commercially insured patients were done via telemedicine, and up to about half for Medicare beneficiaries in April through July.

[\*Sharp, 'Off the Charts' Rise in Alcoholic Liver Disease among Young Women\*](#) is an NPR story by Yuki Noguchi who highlights the rise in alcoholism in young women, another aspect of the coronavirus crisis.

[\*Addiction and behavioral health care workers should have access to COVID-19 testing and vaccines\*](#) is an opinion piece on *Stat News* by Jeff Turicek about how one group of health care workers has been excluded from the prioritization of vaccinations.

[\*'Like you're not all there': Long-haul COVID-19 patients can't seem to bounce back\*](#) is a story in *The Pueblo Chieftain* by Sara Wilson who writes about how doctors and researchers are trying to figure out why these patients can't seem to recover like others.

[\*COVID in Colorado: Mass Vaccination Sites Are the Goal as Next Vaccine Phase Approaches\*](#) is a story by Andrea Flores for *CBS Denver* about how once the state receives more vaccines, mass vaccination sites will be popping up, perhaps as soon as next week.

[\*Philadelphia-area mental health crisis centers and hospitals grapple with shortage of inpatient beds\*](#) is a story in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* by Bethany Ao about how the increased demand for services since COVID has made access to mental health inpatient beds for kids even harder than before.



[\*Colorado lawmakers unveil public-run health insurance bill\*](#) is a story by James Anderson for AP News who reports that Democratic lawmakers introduced a public health care option bill this week, intended to drive down insurance costs for individuals and small businesses hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic.

[\*What New Pandemic Unemployment Benefits Taught Us About Health\*](#) is a *Health Affairs* podcast by Alan Weil and Seth Berkowitz who discuss Seth's research, the potential health impact of unemployment insurance, the changing nature of work in the United States, and how direct payment programs could compliment social safety nets.

[\*Medicaid Delivery System Reforms for Substance Use Disorder\*](#) includes a primer and issue brief that examine the policy levers available to state Medicaid programs to improve SUD treatment...and offer examples of SUD care delivery innovations.

[\*Oklahoma Become 1<sup>st</sup> State to Expand Medicaid Coverage to Include Opioid\*](#)

[Treatment](#) is a story by Jonathan Cooper for *News 9* in OK about how Oklahoma has a new tool to help fight opioid addiction in the state.

[March 2021 Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP](#) is a report on macpac that offers Congress some timely recommendations related to improving Medicaid's responsiveness during economic downturns.

[A Dearth of Protocols to Address Lawful Physician-Hastened Death](#) is a piece in *Neurology Today* by Lola Butcher about how physician-assisted death is legal in nine states, yet neurologists in those states say protocols for the process need to be established and standardized.

[Why is it so hard to put better mental health policies in place? Part III](#) is this week's issue of Ben Miller's newsletter, *Mental: Fighting the fragmentation of mental health one policy at a time*.

[CU-led Playbook Gives Rural Health Leaders a Voice](#) is a podcast featuring Dr. Lauren Hughes, state policy director for the Farley Health Policy Center, and Benjamin Anderson, vice president of Rural Health and Hospitals for the Colorado Hospital Association, who discuss their recently published playbook, *Re-imagining Leadership: A Pathway for Rural Health to Thrive in a COVID-19 World* that empowers leaders to solve their own challenges and engages policymakers in problems in rural America.



[How the lessons of previous epidemics helped successful countries fight COVID-19](#) is an article in *The BMJ* by Alvin Qijia Chua and colleagues who explain what Hong Kong, Liberia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and Taiwan learned from Ebola, MERS, and SARS; and the difference that made.

[Noticeable increase in telehealth services for mental health during COVID-19 pandemic](#) is a new Milliman report that highlights mental health care utilization during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Many Americans continue to experience mental health difficulties as pandemic enters second year](#) is a story on the *Pew Research* site by Scott Keeter about how one year into the COVID disruption, approximately 20% of U.S. adults are experiencing high levels of psychological distress, including nearly 3 in 10 among those who say the outbreak has changed their lives in "a major way."

[One Year into the Pandemic: Implications of COVID-19 for Social Determinants of Health](#) is a brief on the *Kaiser Family Foundation* site by Kendal Orgera and colleagues that provides an overview of social determinants of health and a look at how adults are faring across an array of measures one year into the pandemic.

[Life Expectancy: Could where you live influence how long you live?](#) is an interactive map posted on the *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation* site that allows you to explore how life expectancy in America compares with that in

your area, and resources to help everyone have the opportunity to live a longer, healthier life.

[\*Making It Easy to Get Mental Health Care: Examples from Abroad\*](#) is a post on *The Commonwealth Fund* site by Martha Hostetter and Sarah Klein who discuss how other countries' approaches to expanding mental health services offer the United States important lessons on prioritizing mental health, making care more convenient, and scaling treatment approaches to help more people.

[\*1 big thing: Why COVID patients aren't getting a promising treatment\*](#) is an *Axios newsletter* piece by Caitlin Owens who writes about how two unpublished studies found that two specific antibody therapies can prevent hospitalization and death among high-risk people with mild or moderate COVID-19 infections but how only 1 in 6 or 7 patients eligible to receive antibody treatments are actually receiving them.

[\*Driven by Anti-Vaxxers, Measles Outbreaks Cost Everyone Money\*](#) is a story in *Consumer Health Day* by Amy Norton about a study published in *Pediatrics* and the economic fallout of measles outbreaks.

[\*National poll: Pandemic has negatively impacted teens' mental health\*](#) is a post on *Eureka Alert* from the University of Michigan about data from parents of teens who were asked about new or worsening mental health conditions since the start of the pandemic.



## MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[\*Medical-Legal Partnership: Lessons from Five Diverse MLPs in New Haven\*](#) is an article in *The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* by Emily A. Benfer and colleagues who examine five different MLPs associated with Yale Law School in New Haven, CT to illustrate how MLPs address the social determinants of poor health.

[\*Examining the impact of medical legal partnerships in improving outcomes on the HIV care continuum: rationale, design, and methods\*](#) is an article on *Springer Link* by Miguel Muñoz-Laboy and colleagues who designed a study to develop an HIV-specific medical legal partnership logic model.



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