



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 032621

Editor: Linda Niebauer



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[Intersections of Race, Class, and Health](#) is a year-long series exploring how racism directly and indirectly impacts health and health care in the United States sponsored by the CU Center for Bioethics and Humanities. Dr. Dayna Bowen Matthew, Farley Center steering committee member and Dean and Harold H. Greene Professor of Law at the George Washington University Law School and author, will present as part of this series April 12th at noon MST.

[GoNoodle Announces Strategic Partnership with On Our Sleeves, the Movement for Children's Mental Health](#) is a news release by Nationwide Children's about an effort to bring social-emotional content and educational resources to parents, educators, and kids across the country.

[A first: US Senate confirms transgender doctor for health posts](#) is a story by David Crary, AP national writer, who reports that voting mostly along party lines, the U.S. Senate confirmed former Pennsylvania Health Secretary, Dr. Rachel Levine, to be the nation's assistant secretary of health yesterday.

If you are a rising leader in mental health, public health, planning or health policy and are interested in using your skills to improve the nation's mental health and wellbeing, the Well Being Trust is seeking a fellow to join their team. [Apply here by April 20th.](#)



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[Benefits of music: 5 ways to use music to improve your daily life](#) is a story on *UCHealth Today* by Katie Blocker who writes about tips from a clinical music

therapist and provides five Spotify playlists that serve different activities.

[*Teaching Hospital-Based Rural Physician Fellowships Advance Health Equity*](#) is a post on the *Health Affairs Blog* by Matthew L. Tobey and colleagues who direct the nation's four teaching hospital-based rural physician fellowships, who talk about how the time has come to organize stakeholders and define a pathway to engage AMCs more fully in equitable rural health.

[*Family said Colorado suspect had 'mental illness.' Experts say that's rarely the cause of mass shootings.*](#) Is a story in *USA Today* by Ryan W. Miller who calls out that researchers and advocates say the rush to cast blame on a mental illness is misplaced.

[*Mass shootings add to mental health issues already affected by COVID-19s*](#) story by Drs. Samuel Rothman and Tarun Jain for *ABD News* who write about how side effects of trauma are heightened during the pandemic.

[*The pandemic ushered in 'a new era of medicine': These telehealth trends are likely here to stay*](#) is a story on *USA Today* by Adrianna Rodriguez about how the rise of telemedicine was one of the most dramatic changes resulting from the pandemic, and how mental health appointments dominate virtual care.

[*Designing a Brighter Future for Mental Health Care*](#) is a story on *Worth* by Stephanie Vito about how modern mental and behavioral health care facilities are evolving to reduce stigma, ensure community integration and amplify positive impact – and the exciting possibilities ahead.



[*Why is it so hard to put better mental health policies in place? Part IV*](#) is the topic for this week's newsletter from Ben Miller...the last of a four-part series of posts on what it takes to make mental health reform a reality, plus recommendations on where to focus our efforts.

[*Population Health Science: Fulfilling the Mission of Public Health*](#) is a perspective piece in *The Milbank Quarterly* by Frederick J. Zimmerman who raises these policy points: 1) The historical mission of public health is to ensure the condition in which people can be healthy, yet the field has been distracted from this mission by an excessive reliance on randomized-control trials, a lack of formal theoretical models and a fear of politics, and 2) the field of population health science has emerged to rigorously address all of these constraints, deserving ongoing and formal institutional support.

[*Medicaid Is Key to Building a System of Comprehensive Substance Use Care for Low-Income People*](#) is a story by Anna Bailey and colleagues for the *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities* who report that state and federal policymakers can make tremendous progress toward creating a comprehensive system of care for people with SUDs by fully leveraging Medicaid, and outline steps worth considering.

[*Medicare Advantage for Most*](#) is a perspective piece by Jon Kingsdale for *The Milbank Quarterly* who raises these policy considerations: 1) fixing the ACA requires real cost containment in addition to better subsidies, 2) private Medicare plans are uniquely empowered to control costs and deliver good care, 3) Medicare Advantage plans should serve as the public options on the ACA Marketplace, and 4) Medicare Advantage plans can also be deployed to voluntarily raise minimum employer-sponsored benefits and contain their costs.

[*Developing a Structure of Essential Services for a Child and Adolescent Mental Health System*](#) is a perspective piece by Edward L. Schor for *The Milbank Quarterly* who brings forward these policy considerations: 1) child and adolescent mental health services needs are frequently unmet and has been so for decades, 2) key among the barriers to improving child and adolescent mental health services has been the lack of well-organized primary mental health care. Such care is a mutual but uncoordinated responsibility of multiple disciplines and agencies, and 3) achieving consensus on the essential structures and processes of mental health services is a feasible first step toward creating an organized system.

[*Reflections on the Five Laws of Integrating Medical and Social Services – 21 Years Later*](#) is another Milbank Quarterly article, this one by Stephen M. Shortell, who returns to the 1999 seminal article by Walter Leutz on the need for and ways to better integrate medical and social services, and he assesses the questions then relevant to today's U.S. experience.



[*In Latinx Communities, Economic Insecurity, Immigration Fears, and Misinformation Fuel COVID-19 Disparities*](#) is a story by Jared Kaitwasser on *Contagion Live* is a story about how Dr. Lilia Cervantes of Denver Health and the University of Colorado, and her colleagues, conducted interviews of 60 hospitalized Latinx adults in Denver and San Francisco noting that Latinx people are more likely to be infected, hospitalized and die of COVID-19 compared with white individuals.

[*America's unique gun violence problem, explained in 16 maps and charts*](#) is a story on *Vox* by German Lopez who writes how the level of gun violence is a uniquely American problem when compared with the rest of the developed world and points out why.

[*The medical establishment is failing the UK public on COVID-19*](#) is an editorial in *The BMJ* by Bing Jones who chastises UK medicine for its silence and apparent condoning of tolerance for dysfunction, etc....issues that may resonate for some in this country.

[*Symptoms of Anxiety or Depressive Disorder and Use of Mental Health Care Among Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic - United States, August 2020 – February 2021*](#) is an MMWR Report on the CDC website by Dr Anjel Vahratian

and colleagues who suggest trends in mental health can be used to evaluate the impact of strategies addressing adult mental health status and care during the pandemic, which can guide interventions for disproportionately affected groups.

[*Texas losing \\$2.2B by not treating mothers' mental health, report says*](#) is a story on *Herald Mail Media* that discusses findings from a new study by Mathematica that indicates that 1 in 8 pregnant or postpartum women (13.2%) had a maternal mental health condition, and then estimate the cost of such.

[*Gen X, Millennials in Worse Health than Prior Generations*](#) is a post on *WebMD* by Amy Norton who reports on findings from a new study that looked at markers of physical and mental health across the generations, and how there has been a downhill slide over time.

[*Making It Easy to Get Mental Health Care: Examples from Abroad*](#) is a story on *The Commonwealth Fund* by Martha Hostetter and Sarah Klein who write about 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.



MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[*Some doctors can write a prescription for legal services that might mean housing for a family*](#) is a story published in *Denverite* by Donna Bryson a year or so ago about the idea that providing health care includes looking out for patients' legal concerns drives what are known as medical-legal partnerships.

[*Medical-legal partnerships address social issues affecting patient health*](#) is a story in *AAP News* by Dr. Susan M. Scott who discusses how MLPs are designed to improve the health and well-being of people and communities through partnerships in an upstream approach to combating health-harming social conditions.



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