



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

May is mental health awareness month. [Click here](#) for “Mind the Brain” podcasts sponsored by the CU Department of Psychiatry: conversations to cultivate brain health for health for all for life.

[An Evening of Music with Ethan Lazarus: from Doctor to Composer in 365 Days](#) is a one-hour event featuring Dr. Ethan Lazarus (1996) who will play original pieces on the piano, cello, and with full orchestra; and will share the inspiration for each piece. This event takes place May 18<sup>th</sup>, 6-7PM MDT and is sponsored by the CU Alumni Association.

[New Strategies for Calming Your Pandemic Anxiety](#) is a new book by Dr. Judson Brewer, a leading anxiety researcher, who argues that habits can fuel our worry, and suggests two surprising strategies to combat it: curiosity and kindness.

[Part III of a National Mental Health Rescue Plan](#) is this week's issue of Ben Miller's Mental Health 411 newsletter that addresses what a post-COVID plan for mental health should look like, with a special focus on who we need to be behind it.

Webinar: Launch of Helping Adolescents Thrive toolkit developed by WHO and UNICEF for every child will be May 18<sup>th</sup> 7AM MDT. [Register here](#). It will provide programmatic guidance based on evidence-based guidelines for people working in the health, social services, and education sectors on how to implement mental health promotional and preventive interventions.

[6 Questions to Ask Yourself Before Booking an International Trip](#) is a *Huffington Post* story by Caroline Bologna who writes about ethical and logistical considerations before traveling abroad.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[Healthcare Hackathon](#) was a virtual event sponsored by the Colorado School of Mines that brought together engineering and bioinformatics student teams and rural health experts to tackle nine critical challenges facing rural health, as outlined in the [2020 Rural Health COVID-19 Playbook](#), developed in collaboration with the Colorado Hospital Association and the Farley Health Policy Center.

[COVID Guidance: Screening for Suicide Risk during Telehealth Visits](#) provides an issue brief suggesting suicide screening from the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention for all individuals receiving care for behavioral health conditions, as a core responsibility for health care organizations.

[What is languishing? Lonely? A mental health glossary to explain what you're feeling](#) is a piece by *USA Today Staff* that includes the mental health vocabulary and definitions that have seeped into our everyday lives.

[Grief and Hope in a Changing Climate](#) is a story by Lisa Herron posted on *Climate for Health* about her personal experiences, as well as those of others, related to climate change...common threads include: worry and fear, anger, and hopelessness.

[Riding Herd on Mental Health in Colorado Ranching Country](#) is a Kaiser Health News story by Vignesh Ramachandran and Eli Imadali about how the public health crisis brought on by the pandemic in rural Colorado is just an added burden to the already high stress on people in the agricultural industry.

[COVID in Colorado: Pediatricians Prepare to Administer Pfizer COVID Vaccine for Ages 12-15](#) is a CBS Denver story by Mekialaya White who reports on her conversation with Dr. Sean O'Leary, Children's Hospital pediatrician, who addresses parents' concerns about vaccinating their children.



## POLICY EFFORTS

[Primary Care Payment Reform: Go Hybrid](#) is a post on the *Milbank Memorial Fund President's Blog* by Chris Koller, president, who discusses the new NAM report, "Implementing High-Quality Primary Care" and its clear recommendations that includes a payment strategy led by Medicare and Medicaid.

[A pediatric policy council plenary: The role of research in reducing gun violence](#) is a new release about how a plenary session during the Pediatric Academic Societies 2021 virtual meeting explored the role of public health research in iterative policymaking to reduce gun violence in America. Dr. Shale Wong, Farley Center director, chaired this session.

[Shifting the Paradigm: How Medicaid Can Strengthen Behavioral Health Crisis Response](#) is a post on the *Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families* site by Vikki Wachino and Natasha Camhi who write about how Medicaid is a primary coverage source for crisis and other behavioral services, making it a key policy lever to address violence during police encounters.

[Nothing Exposes the GOP's Cruelty More than Its War on Medicaid Expansion](#) is yet another story of the politics of Medicaid, this one posted on the *New Republic* by Natalie Shore.

[A real Opportunity in the Fight Against Opioid Use Disorders](#) is a post on *Governing: The Future of States and Localities* by Jeff Chapman and Beth Connolly of the Pew Charitable Trusts who write about how billions of dollars will be flowing to states and localities from opioid lawsuit settlements and court rulings. A framework is needed for dedicating the money to programs that save lives.

[COVID a 'watershed' moment for mental health, ex-Rep. Kennedy says in Houston](#) is a story in the *Houston Chronicle* by Robert Downen about how Patrick Kennedy believes COVID-19 is the single biggest moment for mental health in his lifetime...a comment he made at a Menninger Clinic fundraising luncheon last week.

[The AMA's strategic plan to embed racial justice and advance health equity](#) is a leadership piece posted on the AMA's website about the organization's vision and plan for equity and justice in medicine.

[Mass shootings spur new gun policies. The lack of federal research makes it tough to know if they work.](#) is a story in *The Denver Post* by Saja Hindi who reports that Colorado wants to start a state-funded center on gun violence prevention.



[Fully vaccinated older adults 94% less likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19](#) is a story on the *Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute* site by Wendy Meyer about how the CU Anschutz Medical Campus participated in a CDC study that used real-world data to show that those 65 years and older who are fully vaccinated are less likely to be hospitalized for COVID-19 than those who have not been vaccinated.

[Children Now Account for 22% of New U.S. COVID Cases. Why Is That?](#) is an *NPR* story by Bill Chappell who reports on factors/dynamics that link to this increased trend, according to experts.

[Vaccination is Local: COVID-19 Vaccination Rates Vary by County and Key Characteristics](#) is a Kaiser Family Foundation issue brief by Jennifer Tolbert and colleagues that analyzes how vaccination rates to date vary by counties,

and identifies key country characteristics that are associated with higher or lower county vaccination rates.

[Addiction Treatment Providers in Pennsylvania Face Little Scrutiny Despite Harm to Clients](#) is a story on *Kaiser Health News* by Aneri Pattani and Ed Mahon who write about a wrongful death investigation taken on jointly by KHN and Spotlight PA into the death of a man in the care of addiction specialists.

[As the COVID-19 crisis ebbs in the United States, experts brace for some to experience psychological fallout](#) is a story on *Stat News* by Andrew Joseph who talks with many who call out the already 'broken system' before the pandemic even hit, and the impact the fallout from this crisis will have on those inadequacies.

[How the world missed more than half of all COVID-19 deaths](#) is a Vox story by Umair Irfan about a new analysis that finds 6.9 million deaths worldwide, and suggests countries have been undercounting since the beginning of the pandemic.



[HELP MLP](#) is the website for the Health, Education and Legal Assistance Project: A Medical-Legal Partnership housed in southeastern Pennsylvania, founded in 2009.

[Why some are afraid to ask for WIC help](#) is a story in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* by Alfred Lubrano who reports on how low-income immigrant mothers are skipping the chance to get nutritious foods and help for their infants from a federal program because they fear deportation or the loss of their children.

[Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus hosted hearing on health disparities](#) is a story in *The Philadelphia Tribune* by Samaria Bailey a couple of years ago about state legislators who held a series of hearings focused on jobs, healthcare access, quality schools and job training.



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