



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

[Rosalynn Carter recognized by WHO for mental health advocacy](#) is a story on Fox 5 Atlanta that reports on how the 75<sup>th</sup> assembly of the WHO recognized Rosalynn Carter for her lifetime advocacy work for mental health and substance use treatment for more than 50 years.

[Migrant children share stories about life at detention facilities on the southern border](#) is a *Rocky Mountain PBS* story by Lindsey Ford who reports on Warren Binford's book, "Hear My Voice/Escucha Mi Voz" who collaborated with 17 Latinx illustrators to tell the story of 61 migrant children, in their own words.

[The online launch of WHO's new guidance and technical packages on community mental health services: Promoting person-centered and rights-based approaches](#) will take place June 10<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:45AM MDT. This webinar will include information about innovative mental health services that are revolutionizing mental health practices and include personal testimonies from people who use such services and providers, as well as policymakers who are calling for a sea-change in mental health.

[COVID Chronicles: A Comics Anthology](#) is a collection of 60+ short comics from a diverse set of creators that range from realistic to fantastic. These comics express anger, anxiety, fear and bewilderment we felt/feel in the era of COVID-19...but mostly highlight the power of art and community.

[Implementing High-Quality Primary Care: Rebuilding the Foundation of Health Care](#) is a series of webinars from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine the month of June in which the current state of primary care in the United States will be examined with the intention of developing an implementation plan to build upon the 1996 IOM report... Primary Care: America's Health in a New Era.

[The Virtual National Health Equity Summit](#) is a free virtual event being held

June 7-10 and sponsored by Global Health Care, LLC. Dr. Elizabeth Fowler, director of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation and deputy administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will be the keynote speaker. This is the leading national forum on practical case studies and solutions for advancing health equity.

[5 Times a Dinosaur Comic Made Us Laugh about Our Mental Health](#) is a story in *Forbes* by Jessica Gold about a comic series “Dinos and Comics” that has entertained folks during the pandemic...about depressed dinosaurs who find hope in each other.



[Children’s Hospital Colorado declares mental health state of emergency as suicide attempts rise](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Jennifer Brown about how mental health experts are asking for help given the rise in suicide attempts and in emergency room visits for mental health crises...tapping out existing systems/resources. [‘Their Tank Is Empty’: Children’s Hospital Colorado Declares A State of Emergency Over Kids’ Mental Health](#) is another story about this epidemic by Elena Rivera for *CPR*.

[Remote therapy was a mental health lifeline during the pandemic. What happens now?](#) is a story by Eric Berger for *NBC News* about how virtual sessions made it easier for people with depression or anxiety to keep appointments but how video calls created a new set of challenges.

[What Are the Health Consequences of Systemic Racism?](#) is an opinion piece on *The Milbank Quarterly* by Rashawn Ray and Lawrence O. Gostin who talk about how health consequences of systemic racism extend well beyond COVID-19 and police killings, which are just the tip of the iceberg.

[The 3 Things We REALLY Need to Start Asking Each Other](#) is this week’s newsletter from Dr. Ben Miller about how to have a difficult conversation in a more meaningful and impactful way.

[Hopeful Futures Campaign calls on American schools to have comprehensive student mental health plans](#) is a story on *USA Today* by Taylor Avery about how 11 nonprofits are banding together and calling for schools to be ready for the return of students who may come with mental health challenges. The campaign’s website [can be found here](#).

[How Rural School Counselors Confront Life in a ‘Mental Health Desert’](#) is a story in *Oklahoma Watch* by Whitney Bryen who reports on how school counselors help fill a gap.

[Coffee shop for emergency responders promotes conversations about mental health](#) is a story on *9News* by Liz Kotalik about how a nonprofit organization has started a first-of-its-kind café for first responders, meant to provide a space for men and women to support one another between shifts.



## POLICY EFFORTS

[WATCH: Senate Judiciary Committee holds gun violence hearing focusing on safe storage](#) is the recorded hearing aired on *PBS New Hour* where the committee discussed the issue of safely storing firearms.

[Bill to Limit Ketamine Sedations in Police Presence Passes First Hurdle in Colorado Senate](#) is a story on *KUNC* by Michael de Yoanna in which Dr. Kevin McVaney, a Denver Health ER doctor, defends the practice of using Ketamine to prevent people with extreme agitation from dying.

[Fix Youth Mental Health Crisis with Collaborative Action](#) is a commentary on *Cal Matters* by Lisa Pritzker, founder and chair, LSP Family Foundation who talks about how systemic change requires ground-breaking collaboration and how President Biden's administration is directing resources into prevention and treatment for marginalized communities.

[Medical Schools Accused of Inflating Number of Graduating Primary Care Doctors](#) is an NPR story by Dan Boyce about an analysis, which indicates that medical schools are overstating they numbers of primary care doctors they are graduating by about half, not a new ploy.

[State of Medicare Advantage](#) is the May 2021 report from Better Medicare Alliance as it sets about to build a healthier future for seniors and those with disabilities.



## RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

[Opioid treatment in COVID long-haulers sparks concern](#) is a story on the *KDVR* site by Rachel Skytta that reports on a recent study from Washington University and the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs that found a higher rate of long-hauler COVID patients received opioid treatment...not the recommended first line treatment for pain.

[Future generations could be immune to COVID-19](#) is a story on *Explica.CO* that reports on a University of Colorado study where a group of scientists in charge of the analysis of the remains of 36 victims of the bubonic plague, found in a German mass grave, have discovered evidence that adaptive evolution after that epidemic, would have conferred immunity to later generations in the region.

[The Need to Expand Buprenorphine Prescribing to Treat Opioid Use Disorder](#) is a post on the *Milbank Memorial Fund Blog* by Alexandra Duncan and colleagues who talk about how too few medical professionals prescribe Buprenorphine despite it's been shown to reduce mortality and illicit opioid use and increase treatment retention.

[Accessibility and Usability of State Health Department COVID-19 Vaccine Websites: A Qualitative Study](#) is a letter posted on *JAMA Network* by Jessica L. Howe and colleagues who analyzed each state's department of health website for accessibility and usability challenges.

[Mental Health and Substance Use State Fact Sheets](#) is a Kaiser Family Foundation national summary and fact sheets that examine state-level data on mental health and substance use both before and during the pandemic.

[Mental Health and Substance Use Considerations among Children during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) is an issue brief on the *Kaiser Family Foundation* site by Nirmita Panchal and colleagues that explores factors contributing to poor mental health and substance use outcomes among children during the pandemic.

[A Record Number of Americans Died of Drugs, Alcohol or Suicide in 2019, Report Says](#) is a *U.S. News* story by Chelsea Cirruzzo about findings from new data by Trust for America's Health and the Well Being Trust who looked at causes of death data from the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics from 1999 through 2019.



[University of Houston's Humana Institute to Address Health Harming Legal Needs](#) is a post on the University of Houston website by Chris Stipes who reports on a medical legal partnership that has been launched at Lone Star Care Clinic at the University of Houston.

[COVID-19, Decarceration, and Bending the Arc of Justice – The Promise of Medical Legal Partnerships](#) is a post on the *Health Affairs Blog* by Benjamin A. Barsky and colleagues who discuss how prominent organizations have advocated for immediate decarceration measures in the nation's jails and prisons and how to go about creating solutions.

[Training Future Health Justice Leaders – A Role for Medical-Legal Partnerships](#) is an article in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by Dr. Edward B. Heaton and colleagues who write about how MLPs can expand institutional and professional boundaries and help students learn new ways to practice law and medicine together.



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