



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

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 050324

Editor: Linda Niebauer <https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/farleyhealthpolicycenter>



[New medical school coming to University of Northern Colorado as state tries to solve workforce shortages](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Erica Breunlin about how the new college is part of a bipartisan package aimed at expanding health care programs in higher education.



[Denver Health launches campaign around language used when treating addiction](#) is a brief KDVR interview with Dr. Judith Shlay, Denver Health medical director, about how “person-first” language used in medical treatment for addiction can help people feel less stigmatized.

[Why hospital executives think Walmart Health failed](#) is a post on *Becker's Hospital Review* by Giles Bruce about how health system leaders were not surprised by the failure of Walmart Health given the economics of healthcare and the difficulty of providing primary care at scale.

[Navigating Mental Health Around a Cancer Diagnosis](#) is a post on the *CU Anschutz Medical Campus* by Matthew Hastings about why patients may not disclose their condition and then how to support patients going through this health challenge.

[Durango's hotel-to-housing project financing is a first in Colorado](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Mark Stevens about how The Residences at Durango will provide below-market rentals for people earning no more than 60% of the city's \$76,177 median household income.



## POLICY EFFORTS

[No appointments available: America's escalating primary care shortage](#) is an opinion piece on *Health Care Dive* by Christopher Koller and colleagues who believe chronic disinvestment and inadequate training have created a shortage of primary care workers.

[Colorado changed its definition of child abuse and introduced 'Plans of Safe Care.' The impact isn't clear](#) is a *CPR* story by Claire Cleveland that reviews the child abuse definitions and guidelines since 1974. Colorado changes have focused primarily on birth parents and substance use treatment.

[Securing Hope: Strategies for Lethal Means Safety, with Emmy Betz, MD](#) is an article on the U.S. Army website by Lytaria B. Walker, director of prevention, resilience and readiness, about how Dr. Emmy Betz, emergency physician and nationally recognized expert in preventing firearm injuries and suicide, who has been invited to work with numerous organizations spanning the civilian-veteran spectrum about the role that the method of suicide plays in the likelihood that someone will die and the recognition that steps must be taken to reduce access to those lethal methods.

[Doctors can't fix the alcohol problem by themselves](#) is an article in *The BMJ* by Rebecca Coombes, head of journalism, who writes about how it's critical to go upstream to address the problem, which includes public health and policy work.

[U.S. drug control agency will move to reclassify marijuana in a historic shift, AP sources say](#) is a post on *The Colorado Sun* by Zeke Miller and colleagues about how the DEA's proposal would recognize medical uses of cannabis, and acknowledge that it has less potential for abuse than some of the nation's most dangerous drugs.

[A Colorado board wants to lower prescription drug costs. Why are so many patients opposed?](#) is a post on *The Colorado Sun* by John Ingold about how the state Prescription Drug Affordability Board has drawn passionate opposition from patients with rare diseases who worry that the board's actions could have unintended consequences.



## RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

### [Better Debates, Better Decisions: Causality Assessment in Population Health](#)

is an opinion piece in *The Milbank Quarterly* by Elizabeth A. Stuart and Joshua M. Sharfstein of the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health in which the authors argue that a better understanding of different types of scientific studies can help lead to a more nuanced approach to evidence.

### [Action demanded on alcohol as deaths hit record levels](#)

is a news analysis in *The BMJ* by Bryan Christie about how the author examined the data with a record number of UK deaths from alcohol and drinking rates high among children, and what is being done to reverse the trends.

### [Recommendations for a Standardized State Methodology to Measure Clinical Behavioral Health Spending](#)

is an issue brief on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* website by Vinayak Sinha and colleagues with recommendations for a definition and standardized methodology supported by a detailed code set to measure how much payers spend on behavioral health clinical services, which includes claims and non-claims spending.

### [Community Engagement Interventions to Improve Health Equity](#)

is a playbook on *Better Play* designed for health care stakeholders to understand emerging evidence and best practices for implementing community engagement interventions to better meet community needs and improve health equity.



### [Integrating legal services to improve behavioral health, a challenge met from a different angle](#)

is an article posted on *APA PsycNet* by Sarah Hemeida and Shale Wong of the Farley Center published in 2022 in *Families, Systems, & Health* about how integrating a lawyer onto the health care team through MLPs provides a professional skillset that offers solutions that target the underlying social determinants of health.

### [Clients' Self-reported Legal Issues in a Medical-Legal Issues in a Medical-Legal Partnership: Accuracy, Prevalence, and the Role of Mental Health](#)

is an article on *link.springer.com* by Ida Griesemer and colleagues about a study that examined client intake and other linked administrative data from the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center, which is partnered with the Veterans Affairs Connecticut Healthcare System with a suggestion that future research should examine how best to identify and support clients' legal needs, and how these needs interact with mental health challenges.

[MLP in Action](#) is a one-hour recorded webinar that aims to equip staff from health centers, civil legal services, and behavioral health disciplines with

lessons and strategies to enhance behavioral health access and outcomes through the integration of legal services.

[MLP in Action: Advancing Health Equity for Patients Impacted by the Criminal Justice System](#) is a one-hour recorded video that discusses opportunities and effective strategies for utilizing MLP to address the unique health and social needs of individuals involved in the criminal justice system.

[Health Center & Justice System Collaboration to Improve Mental Health](#) includes slides, a webinar and issue brief, which explores the further integration of and partnership between health centers, certified community behavioral health clinics, and courts to improve the continuum of care.

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