



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 050523

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<https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/farleyhealthpolicycenter>



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[Michelle Obama launches a food company aimed at healthier choices for kids](#)

is an *NPR* story by Allison Aubrey about an announcement this week that former first lady Michelle Obama launched a new Public Benefit Company, PLEZi Nutrition, designed to create higher standards for how the United States makes and markets food and beverages for kids. She invited a volunteer advisory panel of experts to serve as her “Kitchen Cabinet,” including Dr. Shale Wong, director of the Farley Health Policy Center. This marks a return to work that Dr. Wong began with Mrs. Obama while she was in the White House.

[Mental Health Awareness Month](#) is observed each May by the National Council to bring attention to the importance of mental health. Three to-dos are provided to help spread awareness and advocate to expand access to mental health and substance use care.

[Commitment to health care for vulnerable communities earns CU educator](#)

[Chase Faculty Community Service Award](#) is a story in *CU Connections* about how Dr. Kathryn Boyd-Trull, CU Family Medicine faculty member, has been recognized for her caring spirit and generosity. A couple of her endeavors include founder and CEO, Yahweh Health Clinic, a nonprofit that provides free medical services at food banks and community resource fairs and is co-faculty advisor for the CU Street Medicine program that provides homeless health education to medical students and refers them to volunteering opportunities.

[Cinco de Mayo has been distorted into a day of drinking. Denver groups are reclaiming the holiday's true meaning.](#)

is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Tatiana Flowers about how the original intent of Cinco de Mayo was to celebrate Mexico's pride and fight for sovereignty and autonomy during the early 1860s, and an attempt by some to reclaim that pride.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[Surgeon General: We Have Become a Lonely Nation. It's Time to Fix That](#) is an opinion piece in *The New York Times* by Dr. Vivek H. Murthy who cites a personal story and talks about his proposal for a national framework to rebuild social connection and community in America. [Click here for additional tools.](#)

[First-of-its-kind mental health care facility set to open in the fall for Cherry Creek Schools students](#) is a story by Danielle Kreutter for *Denver 7* about how Traverse Academy is designed to look more like a school than a hospital and aims to make sure young patients don't miss out on any of their studies or fun activities while they receive treatment.

[Two programs that kept Coloradans fed through the pandemic are shrinking. One may even shut down.](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Monte Whaley about how food justice programs are scrambling to keep delivering fresh fruits and vegetables to people in need.

[Campus police, security screening, more mental health staff: Denver schools get a new safety plan](#) is a post in *The Colorado Sun* by Erica Breunlin about how Denver Public Schools released the initial draft of a districtwide safety plan this week. Parents are outraged over a lack of communication between the district and families.

[Art show depicts how gun violence has impacted students in Denver area](#) is a story by Jaleesa Irizarry for *9 News* about how students from across the Denver metro area submitted works for a show that depicts how gun violence has impacted them.



[The Courts vs. Public Health](#) is an opinion piece in *The Milbank Quarterly* by Joshua N. Auerback and Joshua M. Sharfstein about two recent decisions from federal courts in Texas that illustrate a deepening tension between the public health community and the courts. The authors suggest that a strategy is needed to mobilize understanding and engagement in policymaking and in saving lives.

[Kids stuck in ER after mental health crisis with nowhere to go](#) is a post by Anna Alejo on *CBS News* about a bill that aims to address a crisis in youth mental health...that of getting children who've been stabilized into the right care ASAP.

[What Can We Do to Protect Our Children?](#) is a commentary by Chris Koller on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site who writes about how creating distractions is a time-tested political strategy to divert people's attention from what you don't want them to see. The author discusses how that dynamic is playing out now in our state legislatures, where waves of coordinated, nationally generated legislation purposed to protect children are distracting legislators and the rest of us from much greater threats to kids and to our democracy.

[Colorado governor signs four gun bills into law in a historic change to the state's firearm regulations.](#) is a post in *The Colorado Sun* by Elliott Wenzler about how these bills expand the state's red flag law, raise the minimum age to purchase guns, impose a three-day waiting period for firearm purchases and make it easier to sue the gun industry.

[Opinion: Reps. Woodrow and Jodeh: We remain committed to our bill to build more housing now](#) is a commentary by Reps. Steven Woodrow and Iman Jodeh in *The Colorado Sun* about how they plan to work to add elements to encourage housing density, after the Senate stripped out provisions that would end exclusionary zoning statewide.



[New Study: Behavioral Health Workforce Shortage Will Negatively Impact Society](#) is a post on the *National Council for Mental Wellbeing* site about new data that indicates that most of the nation's behavioral health workforce believes that without public policy changes, provider organizations won't be able to meet the demand for mental health or substance use treatment and care.

[US adult cigarette smoking rate hits new all-time low](#) is an *AP News* by Mike Stobbe that reports 1 in 9 adults say they are current smokers according to a government survey; meanwhile electronic cigarette use rose to about 1 in 7 adults.

[Long COVID is real – and complex. A major study aims to untangle its causes.](#) is a post on *UCHealth Today* by Todd Neff about RECOVER, a billion-dollar clinical trial that is working to understand the roots of long COVID and tailor treatments for it.

[Conceptualizing the Mechanisms of Social Determinants of Health: A Heuristic Framework to Inform Future Directions for Mitigation](#) is an article in *The Milbank Quarterly* by Marco Thimm-Kaiser and colleagues that suggests to expand the cadre of effective SDOH mitigation strategies, a practical, heuristic framework for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers is needed that serves as a roadmap for conceptualizing and targeting the key mechanisms of SDOH influence.

[Beyond the X – Next Steps in Policy Reforms to Address the Overdose Crisis](#) is a perspective piece in the *New England Journal of Medicine* by Dr. Sarah E. Wakeman and Leo Beletsky, JD, about policy that enshrined a mistaken notion of buprenorphine treatment as more complicated and riskier than other types of medical care and contributed to stigma against people with OUD. The change allows any prescriber with a general DEA license to offer buprenorphine, thereby aligning addiction treatment with the approach to other health conditions.



MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[Sometimes Lawyers Can Improve a Patient's Health When Doctors Can't](#) is an *NPR* story by Jakob Rodgers about how Colorado is one of several states that has been given permission to use some of their Medicaid money to help pay for such programs.

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