



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

[Finding Silver Linings](#) is the title of Ben Miller's newsletter this week in which he writes about the importance of taking time for celebration and gratitude during a hard year.

EndCAN is holding a [walk-around the Anschutz Medical Campus](#) September 19th beginning at 10AM, a fundraising event for the National Foundation to End Child Abuse and Neglect, founded by Dr. Dick Krugman, former dean of the CU School of Medicine and Farley Center steering committee member, and Lori Poland, a survivor of child abuse whose care team included Dick.

[COVID-19: The pandemic surges and so do mask mandates](#) is this week's commentary from Dean Jon Samet (of the Colorado School of Public Health) and Farley Center steering committee member, who reminds us that with the pandemic, there is the equivalent number of deaths to 9/11 every two days... so we all need to do our part.

[Young COVID survivor, 23, brings music to health workers' ears](#) is a story on *UCHealth Today* by Kati Blocker who writes how a patient's soulful voice renewed hopes and gave exhausted providers' spirits a lift.

[10th Annual State of the Public Health Conference](#) is sponsored by the University of Georgia College of Public Health's Office of Outreach, Engagement and Equity; and takes place October 14th. Ben Miller will be the keynote speaker.

[911's digital makeover](#) is a post on *AXIOS* by Margaret Harding McGill in which she reports that a next generation 911 would allow the nation's 6,000 911 centers to accept texts, videos and photos.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[Simple Rules that Guide Generalist and Specialist Care](#) is an article by Drs. Rebecca Etz and Kurt Stange in *Family Medicine* in which the authors discuss the paradox of primary care... “that despite providing less evidence-based care for individual diseases, systems based on primary care have healthier populations, less health inequities, lower health care expenditure, and better system-level, evidence-based disease.”

[Climate Change Fuels Multiple Threats to Society’s Health](#) is a post on the *CU Anschutz* website by Debra Melani about a CU program that is preparing clinicians for effects of altered ecosystems.

[TikTok expands mental health resources, as negative report of Instagram’s effect on teens leak](#) is a story on *Tech Crunch* by Amanda Silberling about the new tactics TikTok plans to implement to educate users about the negative mental health impacts of social media.

[Finding Help: Mental health services struggle to meet growing demand in rural Colorado](#) is a story on *Summit Daily* by Jenna DeJong about how Summit County is lacking in mental health resources still, though strides have been made.



POLICY EFFORTS

[New Illinois law will allow students to take 5 mental health days, starting in 2022](#) is a story in *USA Today* by Jeanine Santucci that reports how a new law signed last month by Illinois Gov. J. B. Pritzker will allow five excused absences from school without the need for a doctor’s note, effective January 1, 2022.

[Old Wine in a New Bottle – Time for a National Health Care Workforce Commission](#) is an opinion piece by John E. McDonough, professor of public health practice at the Harvard University TH Chan School of Public Health in the Department of Health Policy and Management. The author suggests that President Biden and Congress should establish a national health care workforce commission to address one of the key shortcomings in this country...that of a shortage of health care workers...a new look at one of the ACA provisions.

[Democrats’ \\$3.5 trillion budget plan does have ‘long road to go’ with Medicare](#) is an opinion piece on *Roll Call* by Patrick Kennedy and Ben Miller who write that “adding hearing, vision and dental benefits to Medicare is a positive step, doing so without first correcting the program’s discriminatory mental health and substance use disorder coverage provisions is flat-out foolish, infuriating and just another example of how we marginalize mental health policy.”

[Democrats' competing health care priorities](#) is a story on *AXIOS* by Caitlin Owens who writes, "The Democrats' reconciliation bill includes several major health care pieces backed by different lawmakers and advocates, setting up a precarious game of policy Jenga if the massive measure needs to be scaled back."

[The Time for Congress to Act on Mental Health Is Now](#) is a post by Ben Miller on *Morning Consult* who writes that Sens. Michael Bennett's and John Cornyn's exemplary policy paper is timely, and lays out a national path to greater resilience, stronger communities, and a reversal of the rise in deaths of despair and mental health challenges gripping the country in recent years.

[Words describing mental health can stigmatize. That's painful and dehumanizing.](#) is a story in *The Washington Post* by Steven Petrow about how the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology* is changing its name given the original name has contributed to stigma of people with mental illness.

[Physicians On COVID Crisis Standards in Idaho and Elsewhere: 'Enormous Amount of Anger'](#) is an NPR story by George Prentice who interviewed Dr. Matt Wynia, director of the CU Center for Bioethics and Humanities, who talks about the three "Rs"...restriction, rationing and responsibility during times like these.

[Michigan is expanding mental health services in schools – and equipping teachers to implement them](#) is a story on *Second Wave* by Estelle Sloomaker about how a University of Michigan program is providing teachers much-needed support to implement social-emotional learning in the classroom.



[Shared Language for Shared Work in Population Health](#) is an article in *Annals of Family Medicine* by CJ Peek and colleagues in which the authors propose a definitional framework to assist navigating among related population and community health terms to enable people to work together more successfully.

[A Tool to Improve Policymaking in Health Care Affordability](#) is a post on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* blog by Victoria Veltri and Kevin Lembo that features a new tool designed to help policymakers understand the real costs of health care and the challenges that Connecticut residents face in meeting their basic needs.

[The Longevity Project, Part 3: Mental health impacts of pandemic are multifaceted](#) is a story in the *Steamboat Pilot* by Kari Dequine Harden who discusses the mental health challenges of the past 18 months, the ongoing pandemic uncertainties and the bright spots in a CO mountain community. The Longevity Project is an annual campaign to help educate readers about what it takes to live a long, fulfilling life in the Yampa Valley. [September 22nd](#) 6-8PM MDT Kevin Hines and Megan Francone will speak about suicide prevention as part of this campaign.

[Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts](#) is a vital statistics report of provisional data from the National Center for Health Statistics that represent the numbers of deaths due to drug overdoses occurring in the 12-month periods ending in the month indicated.

[The Association Between School Closures and Child Mental Health During COVID-19](#) is an article on *JAMA* by Dr. Matt Hawrilenko and colleagues that reports on findings of a survey designed to learn if there's an association between school closures and child mental health outcomes, and how it varies by key sociodemographic characteristics.



MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[Closing the Loop on the Referral](#) is a webinar sponsored by the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership, Siouxland Community Health Center, Iowa Legal Aid, AllianceChicago, and Mallory Curran Consultant during which the team shared best practices to help other health centers advance their MLP practice beyond screenings and referrals.

[Digest of COVID-19 resources for medical-legal partnerships](#) is a collection of resources compiled by the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership to help MLPs when responding to challenges during this pandemic.



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