



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 120420

Editor: Linda Niebauer



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

Dr. Rebecca Etz, a Farley Health Policy Center colleague (and so much more), was awarded the Barbara Starfield Award this week for excellence in advancing the medical home and person-focused care. This award was established in 2012 by the Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative. [You can enjoy colleagues' tributes to Becca here, as well as her warm and gracious acceptance speech.](#)

We in the Farley Health Policy Center are pleased to announce the launch of our newly redesigned website that reflects the focus and evolution of our policy activities over the past few years, including our publications, reports and briefs. [You can check it out here.](#)



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[*Re-imagining Leadership: A pathway for rural health to thrive in a COVID-19 world*](#) is an evidenced-based guide to support rural hospitals and primary care practices navigate ongoing COVID-19 challenges. This playbook was produced collaboratively by the Colorado Hospital Association and the Eugene S. Farley, Jr. Health Policy Center, an effort led by Ben Anderson, VP, Rural Health and Hospitals, CHA and Dr. Lauren Hughes, State Policy Director for the Farley Health Policy Center.

[*On the frontlines of COVID-19 for 8 months: 'It's physically and mentally exhausting'*](#) is a story by Noel Brennan for *9News* about a UCHHealth critical care doctor who shared his long days working in the intensive care unit the past eight months.

['Very Excited': Doctors react to News that COVID Vaccines Will Arrive at Denver Health in a Few Weeks](#) is a CBS Denver story by Jacqueline Quynh about how the Pfizer vaccine may arrive at Denver Health in just a couple of weeks. The vaccine will require two scheduled visit, three weeks apart.

[Some Health Care Workers Are Way of Getting COVID-19 Vaccines](#) is an NPR story by Pien Huang about how some health care workers are on the fence about COVID-19 vaccines.

[Here is when the average healthy Coloradan could get vaccinated](#) is a story by Kim Posey for *Fox 31 2 News* who reported about a news conference with Gov. Polis and Dr. Fauci where Dr. Fauci indicated that it is possible that most people could be vaccinated by summer.

[Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2 Infection Using Symptom Monitoring and Diagnostic Testing](#) contains the latest guidelines from the CDC regarding quarantine.

[Building Emotional Safety Nets for Men](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Andrew Reiner about how support networks with other men can help fend off the loneliness and isolation many men experience.

[Tennessee expands COVID-19 mental health hotline to teachers](#) is an AP *News* story about how Tennessee officials have expanded a mental health hotline during COVID-19 times to extend support to teachers.



[Reforming and Strengthening the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Five Key Reforms to Renew the Agency's Stature and Effectiveness](#) is one of two new posts in *The Milbank Quarterly* in its Building Back Better series that offers timely, practical, and evidence-based recommendations to the incoming Biden administration. This one was written by Lawrence O. Gostin and Sandro Galea.

[Improving Value-Based Payment](#) is the second new post in *The Milbank Quarterly* in its Building Back Better series. This piece was written by Mark V. Pauly and Gail R. Wilensky who suggest that a Biden administration that hopes to make effective changes in payment should consider bolder and more transformational approaches, including incentive rewards or penalties that are substantial, and a hard, risk-adjusted specification of quality goals.

[Zients, Murthy tapped to head up Biden's COVID-19 response](#) is a story in *Politico* by Alice Miranda Ollstein and Tyler Pager about how Jeff Zients, transition co-chair and former Obama administration official, is set to serve as the White House's COVID-19 coordinator and Vivek Murthy, the former U.S. surgeon general under Obama, will return to that role, but with a broader portfolio that will include acting as the top medical expert and public face of the effort.

[*From pandemic to policy: prescriptions to treat our national mental health crisis*](#)

is this week's CIVIC Rx: The Mental Health Pandemic Policy Solutions with Drs. Kavita Patel and Ben Miller who discuss what an enlightened government might do to build a system capable of meeting soaring needs in the future.

[*CMS makes some telehealth coverage permanent, finalizes specialty rate cuts*](#)

is a story on *Health Care Dive* by Rebecca Pifer who talks about how before March, only 15,000 traditional Medicare beneficiaries used a telehealth service weekly. From March to October, 24.5 million beneficiaries (more than 1/3 of Medicare FFS recipients) used virtual care.

[*Psychologist Says Tailored Messaging Is Key for Effective Public Health Policy*](#)

is an NPR story by Audie Cornish who writes about how psychologist Gaurav Suri says public health officials need to tailor their messages to appeal to a wide range of people...key to reducing the spread of the coronavirus.

[*The Path Forward: A Bold Policy Agenda for Young People, by Young People*](#)

is a story on *Young Invincibles* that contains 40 policy recommendations for higher education, health care, and the workforce.



[*Costs of using evidence-based implementation strategies for behavioral health integration in a large primary care system*](#)

is an article in *Health Services Research* by Dr. Kai Yeung and colleagues whose study goal was to describe the cost of using evidence-based implementation strategies for sustained behavioral health integration (BHI) involving population-based screening, assessment, and identification at 25 primary care sites of Kaiser Permanente Washington (2015-2018).

[*Leadership Development and Diversity in Academic Family Medicine: An Emphasis on Women and Underrepresented in Medicine*](#)

is a post on the AAFP site about a leadership development tool created to match individuals with the right opportunity at the right time along their academic pathway.

[*New blood study finds that only about 10% of Americans are immune to*](#)

[*COVID-19, researchers say*](#) is a story by Sarah Dewberry for *The Denver Channel* about a new study published in *JAMA Internal Medicine* that found that most Americans are still susceptible to COVID-19.

[*Emergency psychiatric services needed to address mental health fallout of*](#)

[*COVID-19 era*](#) is a post on *Healio* by Joe Gramigna about a study that indicates the need for emergency psychiatric services and clinician and diagnostic COVID-19 screening of psychiatric emergency patients during the pandemic.

[*Caring for the Whole Child: A New Way to Finance Initiatives to Improve*](#)

[*Children's Health*](#) is a report on *Manatt* by Cindy Mann and Mandy Ferguson about how a growing recognition that socioeconomic factors affect health

outcomes in significant ways is fueling new community investments and change in healthcare delivery systems.

[*How have health spending and utilization changed during the coronavirus pandemic?*](#) is a story on *Health System Tracker* by Cynthia Cox and Krutika Amin is a chart collection that summarizes what is known so far about how health costs and utilization have changed during the pandemic.

[*The words that actually persuade people on the pandemic*](#) is a story on *Axios* by Sara Fischer about a new study that finds certain vocabulary more effective at getting the public to take the COVID-19 pandemic seriously.



MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[*Health and Civil Justice: Innovative Partnerships Between Medicine and Law*](#) is a webinar December 8th, 1PM MT in which the presenters will examine the relationship between health and civil justice, paying special attention to recent innovations in medical-legal partnerships.

[*Where legal services fit within a health care organization's response to SDOH*](#) is a graphic produced by the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership that show where legal services fit.



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