



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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Editor: Linda Niebauer



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[A Path Forward: Thriving in Rural Health Care after COVID-19](#) is the title of the April 28th noon to 1PM Levitt Distinguished Speaker presentation by Benjamin Anderson, the Vice President of Rural Health Hospitals, Colorado Hospital Association. He will discuss challenges faced by rural Colorado clinicians during the pandemic as well as share stories of resiliency. Benjamin and Dr. Lauren Hughes led production of a toolkit and playbook, ["Re-imagining Leadership: A Pathway for Rural Health to Thrive in a COVID-19 World."](#)

[Spreading Truth, Combatting Misinformation](#) is a story by Greg Glasgow on the *CU School of Medicine* site about a pediatric researcher, Dr. Emily Bates, who created a video series to help people make informed decisions about COVID-19 vaccines.

National Public Health Week (first full week of April) provides the backdrop for a host of celebratory/educational events [found here](#).

[Mental Health & Basketball](#) is this week's *Mental: Fighting the fragmentation of mental health one policy at a time* newsletter topic by Ben Miller who discusses what free throw shooting and mental health have in common.

[The Upswing Fund for Adolescent Mental Health](#) is a collaborative fund that focuses on the mental health and well-being of adolescents who are of color and/or LGBTQ+. The Fund aggregates philanthropic support to achieve greater impact, and leverages donor giving to scale proven interventions, accelerate innovation, and advance critical efforts to create policy change to expand the availability of mental health support.

[In a rare admission, MTV says its programming offers a dim view of mental health](#) is a story on *The Washington Post* site by Steven Zeitchik who reports that Chris McCarthy, president of MTV Entertainment Group and overseer of numerous Viacom CBS cable networks, plans to remake programming at MTV and sister units to turn all negative portrayals of mental health challenges on

his networks' shows into positive ones, then double those number of instances.

[The U.S. News & World Report](#) has released its list for 2022 Best Medical Schools for Primary Care...on which the CU School of Medicine ranks number 6 in this category.

A blue banner with a white silhouette of a diverse group of people of various ages and heights. Below the silhouette, the text "COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION" is written in white, all-caps, sans-serif font.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[*Science Plays the Long Game, but People Have Mental Health Issues Now*](#) is an opinion piece in *The New York Times* by Benedict Carey, a 20-year veteran mental/behavioral health reporter for *The New York Times*, who writes about how he saw little proof during his tenure that science-informing mental health care proceeded along any trajectory. He writes about his theories and ideas on what might be required to turn things around.

[*Recovering from the Emotional Challenges of the Pandemic*](#) is a story in *The New Yorker* by Isaac Chotiner of his interview with Dr. Archana Basu, clinical psychologist at Massachusetts General Hospital and a researcher at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. The conversation addresses how children and adults deal with trauma, distinct challenges facing young adults, and how lessons from the pandemic can be used to improve mental health care going forward.

[*As Mass Shootings and Pandemic Collide in Colorado, Mental Health Experts Urge Connection Now More than Ever*](#) is a CPR story by Miguel Otárola who talks with experts about collective trauma, as experienced by Coloradans; the challenges for resilience; and the importance of connectivity.

[*How COVID-19 Will Help Denver Doctors Revolutionize Health Care*](#) is a story in *5280* (Denver's Mile High Magazine) by Spencer Campbell who writes about collaborations initiated in the Denver medical community that could help usher in a new 'golden age' of medicine.

[*4 approaches to cut physicians' mental workload – burnout*](#) is a post on the *AMA* site by Sara Berg who writes about burnout management tips. It has been shown that higher levels of cognitive workload increase burnout rates.

[*Dementia toolkit for clinicians underscores urgency of early diagnosis*](#) is a story in *McKnight's Long-Term Care News* by Alicia Lasek about how a primary care toolkit for brain health assessment and dementia diagnosis has gotten a much-needed update, as more research points to the potential for better outcomes with earlier diagnoses according to the Gerontological Society of America.

A blue banner with a white silhouette of the Colorado State Capitol building. Below the silhouette, the text "POLICY EFFORTS" is written in white, all-caps, sans-serif font.

POLICY EFFORTS

[*Long COVID and Health Inequities: The Role of Primary Care*](#) is a perspective piece by Zackary Berger and colleagues for *The Milbank Quarterly* who make policy recommendations that include strengthening primary care, optimizing data quality and addressing the multiple nested domains of inequity.

[*Op-Ed: Saving Gun Violence Victims Begins Before the OR*](#) is a story on *MedPage Today* by Dr. Joseph V. Sakran who writes about how his experience with gun violence as a kid inspired his career path as a trauma surgeon.

[*Why Aren't More Students Seeking Mental Health Support?*](#) is an opinion piece on *Inside Higher Ed* by Laura Post Horne and Kelly A. Davis who suggest steps colleges can take to lower the barriers.

[*To Achieve Mental Health Equity, Dismantle Social Injustice*](#) is a story in the *Scientific American* by Ruth S. Shim and Sarah Y. Vinson who write about how substance use disorders and other problems cannot be addressed from a position of willful ignorance of our society's inequalities.

[*Her Doctor's Office Moved One Floor Up. Her Bill Was 10 Times Higher.*](#) is a story on *Kaiser Health News* by Lauren Weber about how facility fees are a revenue construct that have nothing to do with healthcare...unique to the United States. Most policy folks decry their existence, yet they multiply.

[*Understanding the Problem; Crafting the Right Response*](#) is a YouTube recording of the first conversation in a series of briefings from the National Action for Suicide Prevention's Mental Health & Suicide Prevention National Response to COVID-19, called Action Needed: Tackling the Nation's Mental Health Crisis. This initial panel discussion breaks down the mental health and addiction crisis facing the nation and lays out how we can begin to end it, moderated by Ben Miller.



[*States Start to Move Away from Health Care Cost Shifting*](#) is a post to the *Milbank Memorial Fund President's Blog* by Christopher F. Koller who discusses how cost shifting is easy, but cost reduction is hard with only a partial understanding/view of total health care spending. "You can't improve what you don't measure."

[*Tackling America's Mental Health and Addiction Crisis through Primary Care Integration*](#) is a report from the Bipartisan Policy Center with task force recommendations that focus on breaking down barriers to integrating primary and behavioral health care. Research shows that integration enhances access to care, improves treatment outcomes, reduces health disparities, and is cost-effective.

[*One in Five Colorado High School Students Has Access to Firearms*](#) is a story on the *CU Anschutz Medical Campus* site by Julia Milzer about a new study that looks at gun access among adolescents in Colorado.

[*From outbreak to immunity*](#) is a *National Geographic* article by Christina Nunez who discusses how the pandemic sparked vaccine development at unprecedented speeds.

[*Cost-effectiveness of Treatments for Opioid Use Disorder*](#) is an article on *JAMA Psychiatry* by Dr. Michael Fairley and colleagues who suggest that expanding access to MAT, overdose education and naloxone distribution, and contingency management may generate significant societal cost savings and, more importantly, save numerous lives.

[*Coverage of Services to Promote Children's Mental Health*](#) is a report from *Well Being Trust (Ben Miller), Mental Health America, and the California Children's Trust* that analyzes state and insurer non-compliance with current federal law.

[*Symptoms of Anxiety or Depressive Disorder and Use of Mental Health Care among Adults during the COVID-19 Pandemic – United States, August 2020 – February 2021*](#) is a report on the CDC site by Dr. Anjel Vahratian and colleagues who suggest that trends in mental health can be used to evaluate the impact of strategies addressing adult mental health status and care during the pandemic, and to guide interventions for disproportionately affected groups.

[*Gen X, Millennials in Worse Health than Prior Generations at Same Ages*](#) is a post on *WebMD* by Amy Norton who writes about a new study that looked at markers of physical and mental health across the generations, finding a downhill slide over time.



[*Moving Upstream to Address SDOH and Health Equity at a Policy Level*](#) is the title of a final segment of an MLP toolkit series sponsored by the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership scheduled, April 6th, 11AM-12:30PM MT during which a panel of access-to-justice experts about bold and innovative policy-driven initiatives that MLPs can engage in to help close the justice gap and increase health equity for patients and communities.

[*Initiative to End Family Violence*](#) is a program designed to address this problem through research, education, clinical care, and legal and community collaboration. Check out this website for a host of resources and efforts relative to making progress in this area.



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