



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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Editor: Linda Niebauer

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



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[Don't be surprised when it happens to you](#) is this week's newsletter from Ben Miller in which he discusses how health care continues to disappoint when it comes to putting patients first.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[Opinion: Medical debt is cheaper and easier to forgive than student-loan debt](#) is a post in *The Colorado Sun* by Emily Eelman about how for pennies on the dollar relief could be provided to the 1 of 6 Colorado adults in medical collections.

[Paying the Price for Therapy: When Mental Health Treatment Is Out of Reach](#) is a story on *CNET* by Iris Kim about how low-cost clinics, online apps, and support groups are helping Americans get care that's more affordable and accessible.



POLICY EFFORTS

[Development and Implementation of State and Federal Child Welfare Laws Related to Drug Use in Pregnancy](#) is an article on *The Milbank Quarterly* site by Alexander D. McCourt and colleagues about how the use of legal mapping and qualitative interviews allowed the authors to examine the development of

state child welfare laws related to substance use in pregnancy from 1974 to 2019. Findings: policies that may disincentivize treatment-seeking and widespread implementation challenges suggesting the need for change.

[Maternal and Infant Death Rates Are Much Higher in States that Ban or Restrict Abortion](#) is an issue brief posted on *The Commonwealth Fund* site by Eugene Declercq and colleagues who found that compared to states where abortion is accessible, states that have banned/are planning to ban/have otherwise restricted abortion have fewer maternity care providers; more maternity care “deserts”; higher rates of maternal mortality and infant death, especially among women of color; higher overall death rates for women of reproductive age; and greater racial inequities across their health care systems.

[How Policymakers’ Personal Stories Inspire their State Service: A Conversation with Cleave Simpson and Nizar Wehbi](#) is an article on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* site by Kate McEvoy who interviewed Cleave Simpson, Colorado State Senator, and Dr. Nizar Wehbi, North Dakota State Health Officer, which is the first in a series focused on policymaker “origin stories” and how their backgrounds have influenced and inspired their public service.

[A Step toward Interoperability of Health IT](#) is a perspective piece in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by Dr. David Blumenthal who writes about how robust exchange of patient data has the potential to improve the quality of care and support efforts to hold key actors accountable for its costs, yet technical and economic obstacles have prevented the realization of this vision. A federal regulation, effective October 6, 2022, takes a potentially important

[Pueblo sees first attempt by Texas-based anti-abortion activist to challenge Colorado law](#) is a story in *The Colorado Sun* by Elliott Wenzler about an activist who has helped write abortion-banning ordinances in about

[Meeting the moment on children’s mental health: Recommendations for federal policy](#) is a report posted on *Brookings* by Richard G. Frank and colleagues that aims to inform the national health care debate with rigorous, evidence-based analysis leading to practical recommendations using the collaborative strengths of USC and Brookings.

[With NYC plan for mentally ill, hospitals face complex task](#) is an *AP* story by Jennifer Peltz and Bobby Caina Calvan about how a NYC plan to keep mentally ill people from languishing in public, and the legal challenge and cool reception from some city lawmakers.



[Primary Care and Behavioral Health Services Use Differ Among Medicaid-Enrolled Children by Initial Foster Care Entry Status](#) is an article on *Springer Link* by Drs. James Kaferly and other Farley Center colleagues who write about a retrospective study that linked Colorado child welfare and Medicaid administrative data for 30,164 Medicaid-enrolled children, up to 23 years old,

who differed by initial foster care entry, to examine primary care and behavioral health utilization patterns from 2014 to 2021.

[Integrating Behavioral Health Services into Primary Care](#) is a case study posted on *The Commonwealth Fund* site by Martha Hostetter and Sarah Klein that addresses how one Medicaid managed care plan made it work.

[Poll finds youth mental health crisis is not getting better](#) is an *AXIOS* post by Sabrina Moreno that reports on what school administrators believe about their student' mental health...it has gotten worse since 2021.



[National Center for Medical Legal Partnership graphic/information](#) is about the hundreds of health organizations that are integrating patient-centered legal services into their care delivery to address their communities' health-related social needs.

[Tool: Screening for Disability Discrimination](#) contains two screening tools posted on the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership's site by Katie Hathaway designed to determine if your patient is experiencing discrimination based on a disability or chronic disease



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