



EUGENE S. FARLEY, JR.
HEALTH POLICY CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

Reminder: the PCPCC webinar, [*"Your Patients Are Waiting: Action steps to integrate behavioral health into primary care practice"*](#) airs today at 11AM MDT. [Click here](#) to join the webinar.

Colorado's State Innovation Model work ends July 31st after four years of implementation. For more information about the program and continued work, [click here](#).

[*California Tests a Digital 'Fire Alarm' for Mental Distress*](#) is a story in *The New York Times* by Benedict Carey about how the state is teaming up with the Silicon Valley to make mental health services more available...benefits and pitfalls.

[*Claude Monet: The Truth of Nature*](#) opens at the Denver Art Museum in October, and tickets go on sale for the general public June 25th.

[*New Initiative Launched to Advance Health Equity through Innovation in Colorado's Safety Net*](#) is a THCF post about the forming of the Colorado Innovation Community, a collaboration among THCF, the Denver Foundation, Rose Community Foundation, and Colorado Access; for a two-year, \$3 million initiative to support organizations as they explore effective and affordable patient-centered solutions to improve the quality of care to underserved Coloradans. This effort will be managed by the Center for Care Innovations, a California-based nonprofit. The first cohort or provider groups selected to participate include: Clinica Family Health, Every Child Pediatrics, Jefferson Center for Mental Health, Melissa Memorial Hospital, Mental Health Center of Denver, Solvista Health, and STRIDE Community Health Center.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[*Stories of Change: How We're Transforming Clinical Practice to Better Treat Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders*](#) are stories posted on the *Well Being Trust* website about some of the achievements from the Clinical Performance Group, a system-wide learning collaborative that aims to improve care and delivery.

[*Mental health first-aid kit: Lady Gaga is working on high school program to reduce stigma*](#) is a story by Marguerite Ward for the *Today Show* about a pilot program conducted by eight schools to help teens deal with mental health issues, and teachers report it's working. Each school has agreed to help expand the program.

[*Setting the Stage: 5 Initiatives that Improve Resilience in Youth*](#) is post on the *Well Being Trust blog* that encourages early intervention and highlights five programs designed to support children, and to help build a resilient foundation for their future.

[*So many health and wellness apps haven't done research to back up their claims*](#) is a story by Rachel Kraus on *Mashable* who points out that makers of health care apps don't face the same evidence-based standards that drugs, doctors, and other experts do – instead treating “patients” as “users” like any other app would.

[*How do we make America happy again? We start by studying well-being*](#) is a story by Carol Graham for the *Los Angeles Times* who explored surveys about well-being and found patterns that included: well-being is unequal in the United States across race and income groups than in many other countries, happiness has fallen the most over time among white males and the least educated, and distress was greatest among those in middle age.

[*NBC News: San Francisco set to become first major U.S. city to ban e-cigarettes*](#) is an NBC News story by Doha Madani and AP about how city supervisors in San Francisco voted unanimously in favor of banning e-cigarettes due to a growing health epidemic of youth vaping.

[*The Business of Health Care Depends on Exploiting Doctors and Nurses*](#) is an opinion piece in *The New York Times* by Danielle Ofri who talks about how the professionalism of caregivers is one resource that seems infinite and free. But that the status quo is not sustainable...not for medical professionals and not for patients.



POLICY EFFORTS

[*Connecting the dots on social determinants of health*](#) is an opinion piece on *The Hill* by Terry Gallagher and Angela Moss who talk about how studies report that safe housing, balanced meals, transportation, and social support are essential to health and well-being. What's needed in this country, according to the authors, is a fundamental philosophical shift from thinking about health only when ill and only within the context of the health care system.

[*Federal Grants Restricted to Fighting Opioids Miss the Mark, States Say*](#) is an NPR story by Carmen Heredia Rodriguez and colleagues who report that drug abuse problems seldom involve only one substance, so states need money that does not need to be used exclusively for opioids.

[*Academic Medical Centers: Too Large for Their Own Health?*](#) is an opinion piece on *JAMA Network* by Dr. S. Claiborne Johnston who believes that academic medical centers should be optimized to enable rapid innovation in health that aligns with society's interests. To do so they must reduce their reliance on fee-for-service medicine and the associated pressures to retain market share, raise prices and increase consumption of health care.

[*Abortion Rights in Peril – What Clinicians Need to Know*](#) is an opinion piece by Elizabeth Nash, senior state issues manager at Guttmacher Institute, reviews state policies and unconstitutional abortion bans and access to services for the 64 million U.S. women of reproductive age. In keeping with some of the core values that undergird medical care – beneficence, justice, respect for autonomy – the author emphasized the critical role clinicians have to ensure that their patients have the information they need to obtain comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion.

[*Addiction used to be someone else's problem. Doctors graduating today are eager to take it on*](#) is a story in the *Boston Globe* by Felice J. Freyer who reported that doctors who graduated this spring from the medical schools at Harvard, Tufts, Boston University and the University of Massachusetts are among the first fully trained to recognize and treat addiction. As of 2018, schools that train clinicians can revise their curriculums to encompass buprenorphine training and can apply to one of several designated agencies whose approval will be effective nationwide.



RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

[*Family, community bonds help decrease mental health problems of former child soldiers*](#) is an NIH news release about how an NIH-funded study documents transition to adulthood of Sierra Leone's child soldiers suggesting that acceptance and support from communities and families appear to lessen the toll of mental health conditions.

[*Millennial Generation Deaths Due to Drug Misuse up 400 percent since 1999: Deaths from Drugs and Suicide at All-time Highs*](#) is a story on the *Well Being Trust* website about a new report from Trust for America's Health and Well Being Trust that provides solutions for stopping deaths of despair among Millennials.

[*Treatment of Common Mental Disorders in the United States: Results from the National Epidemiologic Survey on Alcohol and Related Conditions - III*](#) is an article in *The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry* by Dr. Mark Olfson and colleagues who analyzed the past 12-month disorder-specific mental health treatment patterns of common DSM-5 disorders in the United States, which showed that most mental health and substance use disorders to untreated.

[*Latest Suicide Data Show the Depth of U.S. Mental Health Crisis*](#) is a story on *Bloomberg Businessweek* by Cynthia Koons who talks of the nation's mental health epidemic (social and economic catastrophes) and the inadequate governmental response. The author insists we need to shift our material well-being focus to emotional well-being...health, education, and the environment.

[*Why changing how we view pain can help us address the opioid crisis*](#) is a story on *Ideas.Ted.com*, along with a recorded Ted Talk about a how a pain-free life is not an appropriate goal, how lifestyle interventions (not pills) can help, and a new pain scale to be used with a series of questions.

[*Availability of Outpatient Care from Psychiatrists: A Simulated: Patient Study in Three U.S. Cities*](#) is an article in *Psychiatry Online* by Monica Malowney and colleagues who studied the availability of psychiatrists for outpatient appointments in three U.S. cities, and determined it was difficult, irrespective of payer.



[*Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic*](#) is an interdisciplinary course in which Memphis Law students represent low-income pediatric patients at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital and their families. The MLP Clinic is part of the Memphis Children's Health Law Directive (Memphis CHiLD), a collaborative effort among the School of Law, Memphis Area Legal Services, education and systemic advocacy.

[*Medical-Legal Partnership Interventions and Child Development: Cross-sector Partnerships to Address Social Determinants of Health*](#) is an article on *Institute for Child Success* by Keller Anne Ruble and colleagues who outline the structure, services and outcomes associated with MLPs, explores the growth and utilization of MLPs in South Carolina as a case study to inform other efforts, highlights the impact of social determinants of health and child development, and identifies opportunities to strengthen MLP service delivery for improved public health.

[*Ayuda Familias*](#) is a coalition born of necessity during the United States immigration crisis that provides wrap-around services for immigrants, and partners with organizations and attorneys nationally to create an open network of resources and information sharing.



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