



EUGENE S. FARLEY, JR.  
HEALTH POLICY CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

# FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 071219



## NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[Colorado Equity Compass](#) is a pilot project sponsored by *The Colorado Trust* that involves testing and providing feedback about a health equity data and storytelling platform. If you are engaged in work that addresses the social determinants of health and wish to participate, you can [apply here](#) by 7/31/19.

Our friend and colleague, Dr. Kurt Stange, founding editor of *Annals of Family Medicine* is passing the baton after 17 years. He will be succeeded by Dr. Caroline R. Richardson. You can read a very thoughtful tribute to Dr. Stange [here](#) by Dr. John Frey.



## COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[Why Do We Neglect Our Health System's Foundation?](#) is a post on the AAFP blog, "In the Trenches" by Shawn Martin, Sr. VP of Advocacy, Practice Advancement and Policy who talks about how our healthcare challenges are the result of the systemic underinvestment in the foundations of our health care system.

['An expensive problem': How much will health insurance cost in retirement?](#) is a story in *USA Today* by Katie Brockman who talks about how health insurance in retirement is widely misunderstood, which can lead to an expensive problem.

[Unsheltered and Uncounted: Rural America's Hidden Homeless](#) is an NPR story by Mary Meehan who reports that 1 in 3 rural Americans say homelessness is a problem in their communities, and that the ongoing addiction crisis is driving more people to homelessness.

[\*Is Great Information Good Enough? Evidence from Physicians as Patients\*](#) is a National Bureau of Economic Research working paper by Michael D. Frakes and colleagues who investigated whether the key barrier to achieving high-quality and low-cost care is the deficiency of information and medical knowledge among patients, as some believe.



[\*Insurance Industry Warned During Mental Health Parity Bill Signing\*](#) is a story in *CT News Junkie* by Christine Stuart who reports on a Connecticut bill aimed to require insurance companies to show the CT Insurance Dept. how they are complying with the parity law, given it has the worst mental health parity compliance in the country according to a 2017 Milliman study.

[\*Doctors Slow to Adopt Tech Tools that Might Save Patients Money on Drugs\*](#) is an *NPR* story by Phil Galewitz about how a growing number of health systems and insurers are providing real-time drug pricing information to physicians so they can help patients avoid sticker shock at the pharmacy.

[\*Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado 2018\*](#) is prepared every few years for Colorado Center on Law and Policy by the Center for Women's Welfare at the University of Washington, which calculates how much income a family must earn to meet basic needs without public or private assistance based on family composition in each of Colorado's 64 counties.

[\*Biden Calling ACA a 'Breakthrough' for Mental Health Parity Only Highlights Gaps\*](#) is a post by Shefali Luthra for *Kaiser Health News* of a CNN interview with Joe Biden where he indicates that the ACA "evened out the playing field when it came to insurance coverage of mental and physical health." The claim is mostly accurate, yet the implementation has yet to trigger the systemwide changes necessary to achieve the goal of parity.

[\*The Groundbreaking Moment in the 2020 Race that No One Noticed\*](#) is an opinion piece by Jack Brewster for *Newsweek* about how Democratic candidates Mayor Pete and Rep. Seth Moulton both disclosed that they had suffered from mental health issues as a result of military service, perhaps a turning point in U.S. presidential campaigns...but no one seems to have noticed.



## RESEARCH, DATA, EVALUATION

[\*The Next Generation of Connectivity in Family Medicine Research\*](#) is an editorial in *Annals of Family Medicine* by Drs. Mohammed A. Rashid and Larry A. Green about the benefits and challenges ahead relative to increased connectivity, as well as the pluses of the “flash mob” study design discussed by Schols and colleagues in this same issue.

[\*A Structured Approach to Detecting and Treating Depression in Primary Care: VitalSign6 Project\*](#) is a report in *Ann Fam Med* by Drs. Manish K. Jha and colleagues that describes outcomes of an ongoing quality-improvement project in a large U.S. metropolitan area to improve recognition, treatment and outcomes of depressed patients in 16 primary care clinics.

[\*With Rural Health Care Stretched Thin, More Patients Turn to Telehealth\*](#) is an NPR story by Patti Neighmond who reports that a recent NPR poll of rural Americans showed nearly a quarter have used some kind of telehealth service within the past few years; 14% say they received a diagnosis or treatment from a doctor or other health care professional using email, text messaging, live text chat, a mobile app, or a live video; and 15% say they have received a diagnosis or treatment from a doctor or other health professional over the phone.

[\*The best mental health treatments for youth are slow to catch on in Philadelphia, study finds\*](#) is a story in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* by Aneri Pattani who discusses a recent study in the journal, *Implementation Science*, which highlights the importance of accountability for a field changing to align with the evidence and best practices.

[\*Primary Care Appointments for Medicaid Beneficiaries with Advanced Practitioners\*](#) is an article in the *Ann Fam Med* by Lena Leszinsky and Molly Candon who set out to test the theory that primary care access in Medicaid improved after the PPACA despite millions of new beneficiaries because practices are scheduling more appointments with advanced practitioners (such as NPs and PAs). A secret shopper design was used, funded by RWJF.

[\*Are Opioid Deaths Affected by Macroeconomic Conditions?\*](#) is a post on the *National Bureau of Economic Research* site that provides findings from a group of researchers who examined how deaths and ED visits, due to opioids and other drugs, related to shocks to the local unemployment rate.



## MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS

[\*ABE grant helps Iowa open legal clinics in VA medical centers\*](#) is a story by Amanda Robert for *ABA Journal* about a new MLP in Iowa that aims to assist veterans, thanks in part to a grant from the American Bar Endowment. Only eight states remain without an MLP in a VA medical center.

[\*Whole Person. Whole Team. Whole Communities. Summit\*](#) is a 2-day meeting hosted by the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership and will be held September 19-20, 2019 in National Harbor, MD. Early registration closes July 15<sup>th</sup>. The purpose is to explore ways in which laws and policies affect the physical, emotional and mental health of individuals, hasten health care crises among the most vulnerable and preserve health inequities that keep whole communities from thriving.

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