



EUGENE S. FARLEY, JR.
HEALTH POLICY CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

ISSUE 071919



NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

For those who wish to follow the progress of the Governor's Colorado Behavioral Health Task Force, [click here](#) to sign up for the Colorado Department of Human Services newsletter.

[*Outdoor yoga: Top spots from Red Rocks to your park or county fairs*](#) is a posting on *UC Health Today* by Katie Kerwin McCrimmon about some fabulous outdoor yoga options in Colorado this summer.

For those interested in watching the [Colorado Health Symposium](#) online next week, you can check out the [livestream agenda here](#) in preparation. To sign up for the livestream, [click here](#).

[*United States growing largest crop of marijuana for research in 5 years*](#) is an AP story in the *NY Post* about how NIDA will be growing 4,409 pounds of marijuana at the University of Mississippi (holder of the sole federal contract for producing marijuana) in response to interest in varieties with high levels of THC and CBD.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[*How physicians can fight misinformation about vaccines*](#) is a story in *Medical Economics* by Laura Ramos Hegwer who reports that a good way to begin this conversation is to make a presumptive statement that assumes the patient will be vaccinated... "It's time for Johnny to get vaccinated" emphasizing vaccination as the social norm. If that doesn't work...perhaps try motivational interviewing to improve uptake. Federal policymakers are also stepping up efforts to combat the anti-vaccination movement.

[*A roundtable on mental health*](#) is a story in *The Gazette* about a recent community conversation about mental health care in Colorado co-hosted by The Gazette and KKTU. More than 250 people attended to listen to a panel of

four discuss solutions for better care in Colorado Springs and beyond.

[*How do you make a mental health app people actually want to use? Take a page from podcasts and Pixar*](#) is a post on *Health Tech* by Megan Thielking who reports that design is half the battle and developing a level of intimacy is key to establish trust.

[*Has Your Doctor Talked to You about Climate Change?*](#) is an NPR story by Martha Bebinger who points out that in June the AMA, AAP and American Heart Association were among 70 medical and public health groups that issued a call to action asking the U.S. government, businesses and leaders to recognize climate change as a health emergency. Climate change needs to be reframed as a public health issue (not political) so that all get on board.

[*Behind the Asterisk: Perspectives on Young Adult Mental Health from “Small and Hard-to-Reach” Communities*](#) is a report from CLASP, a national, nonpartisan, anti-poverty nonprofit that advances policy solution for low-income people. The authors make a number of recommendations for systems reform and mental health equity, and encourage focusing on both the shared and unique experiences of young people from such communities, and applying the lessons embedded in their experiences to improve policymaking on behalf of all young people.

[*Supporting Mothers of Color with Culturally Relevant Mental Health Services*](#) is a post on the CLASP website by Isha Weerasinghe who makes a plea for providing culturally relevant training for providers, implementing culturally responsive and family-inclusive treatment; and redefining the “system” beyond the formal medical institution.

[*Ben Miller + the health of the nation*](#) is an entertaining podcast (with transcript) by Casey of Patreon (a company whose model powers creators by giving them tools they need to acquire, manage, and energize their paying patrons) with Ben Miller about how we shift to a whole health model, with a call out to Jack Westfall.



[*Medical marijuana for children*](#) is an article in *Contemporary Pediatrics* by Mary Beth Nierengarten who reports on information presented by Drs. G. Sam Wang (CO) and Elissa Miller (PA) at last year’s AAP National Conference about marijuana as medicine for kids.

[*The profound effect of Medicaid on children’s health*](#) is a 1-minute video, produced by Vox and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, about how Medicaid impacts more than the health of children.

[*‘Fighting the wrong war’: Chronic pain patients push feds to change opioids policies*](#) is a USA Today story by Ken Alltucker and Jayne O’Donnell about how federal health officials are rethinking policies that led to abrupt cutbacks to those who legitimately need these painkillers to function, after a backlash from

chronic pain sufferers nationwide.

[*State Medicaid Programs Should Follow the “Medicare Model”*](#) is a report by Ellen Weber and Arka Gupta of the Legal Action Center who say that State Medicaid programs should remove prior authorization requirements for Buprenorphine and other medications to treat opioid use disorders to expand patient access to life-saving medications.

[*Florida to require mental health classes in public schools starting in sixth grade*](#) is a story in the *Sun Sentinel* by Ana Ceballos about a mandate by the state Board of Education that requires public schools to teach students at least five hours of mental health instruction beginning in 6th grade.

[*Investing in Primary Care: A State-Level Analysis*](#) is the PCPCC 2019 Executive Report, from a ‘first-of-its-kind study’ that examines states’ primary care spending patterns, including spending across payer types; and considers the implications of these results for select patient outcomes.

[*Rising health insurance deductibles fuel middle-class anger and resentment*](#) is a story in the *LA Times* by Noam N. Levey who reports on an LA Times analysis that shows how a steep run-up in deductibles, which have more than tripled in the last decade, has worsened inequality...fueling anger and resentment and adding to the country’s unsettled politics.



[*Without Doctors or Insurance, St. Louisans Visit the Emergency Room for Mental Health*](#) is a St. Louis Public Radio story by Sarah Fentem about how gaps in access and long wait times mean patients are visiting the emergency room more often for mental health problems. Mood disorders such as depression or obsessive-compulsive disorder were the most common reason for patients to come to the St. Louis Country ER.

[*Access to Primary Care Clinics for Patients with Chronic Pain Receiving Opioids*](#) is an article on *JAMA Network* by Dr. Pooja A. Lagisetty and colleagues who conducted a survey study to determine how likely primary care clinicians are to accept new patients taking prescription opioids for pain management, and does this differ based on insurance type.

[*Alcohol’s Secondhand Harms in the United States: New Data on Prevalence and Risk Factors*](#) is an article by MB Nayak and colleagues in the *J Stud Alcohol Drugs* who examined a range of indicators of alcohol’s harm to others (AHTO) among U.S. adults and assessed sociodemographic and alcohol-related risk factors for AHTO.

[*Opioid death rates soared in communities where pain pills flowed*](#) is an investigative piece in *The Washington Post* by Sari Horwitz and colleagues about data that showed the highest per capita death rates nationwide 2006-12 from opioids were in rural communities in West Virginia, Kentucky, and Virginia; communities that were flooded with a disproportionate share of the 76

billion oxycodone and hydrocodone pain pills from some of the country's largest drug companies.

[*New data shows drug overdose deaths fell in 2018. But there's a big catch*](#) is a post on *Vox* by German Lopez about preliminary data from the CDC that showed a drop in deaths of about 5% from the previous year. A final report is due in December, which may not bear out this good news due to several caveats spelled out in the article.

[*Association between Insurance and the Transfer of Children with Mental Health Emergencies*](#) is an article in *Pediatric Emergency Care* by Jamie L. Kisse and colleagues who investigated the association between a patient's insurance coverage and a hospital's decision to admit or transfer pediatric patients presenting to the ED with a mental health disorder.

[*Why people with mental illness may face poorer physical health and early death*](#) is a CNN story by Arman Azad who discusses findings from a new report from a team out of the University of Manchester that analyzed 100 studies and found that most people with mental illness die early due to poor physical health that could be largely preventable.



[*Partnership provides legal aid to expectant mothers*](#) is a story on *WKRC Cincinnati* by Liz Bonis about M-Help (Maternal Health Law Partnership), supported by a community funder that recognizes that 80% of our health is tied to factors outside the hospital walls. M-Help aims to address social needs to improve outcomes for these moms.

[*Scottish Medico-Legal Society*](#) is a Scottish organization made up of members of the medical, legal, scientific, and criminal justice professions to provide a forum for the discussion of subjects of interest to these members and their guests. The society aims to promote all aspects of medico-legal knowledge and understanding.



EUGENE S. FARLEY, JR.
HEALTH POLICY CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

SUBSCRIBE TO FRIDAY'S FEATURES