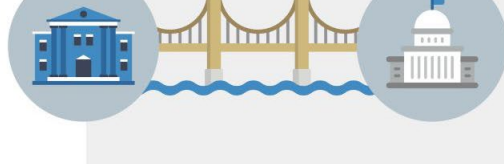




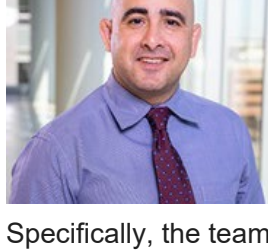
Farley's Features: April 18

Bridging research and policy



Welcome to Farley's Features, the Farley Health Policy Center's monthly newsletter, focusing on key health policy issues that span primary care, behavioral health, and public health practice. Our interprofessional team invites your perspectives as we pursue health policy research, translation, implementation, and education.

Message from the Farley Center



Dear Alison,

Two weeks ago, the Farley Center hosted its spring 2025 steering committee meeting with a special focus on education mission work.

We were pleased to facilitate discussion with particular emphasis on the growth of the mission during the 2024-2025 academic year.

Specifically, the team is excited to roll out a series of 'standard' education and training packages focused on policy skills. These packages will offer internal and external partners specific choices for skill-based education offered by Farley experts.

In addition, the education team is thrilled by the creation of a brand-new health policy thematic area for the mentored scholarly activity that is required of all CU school of medicine undergraduate learners. The new theme area should strengthen the existing ties between undergraduate medical learners and the Farley Center, and the team is excited to see the new projects that emerge through this opportunity.

Ultimately, steering committee members appreciated learning about this work and offered guidance on how to continue growth. Questions or thoughts about the Farley Center's educational mission? Let us know at farleyhealthpolicycenter@cuanschutz.edu.

Warmly,

Daniel

Daniel S. Goldberg, J.D., Ph.D.
Director of Education, Farley Health Policy Center

Recent Publications

The Farley Center team has several recent publications relevant for those interested in health policy, detailed below.

Farley Center Staff and Learners Co-Author Brief with Kempe Center, "Ensuring Child Safety Online"

Farley Center learner Maura Gissen, M.A., was corresponding author on [this brief](#), which points to online age verification as a critical tool toward a safer, healthier online environment for young people. Jessica Kenny, Ph.D. and Shale Wong, M.D., MSPH, were coauthors along with Kempe Center Advocacy Director Warren Binford, J.D., M.Ed.

Milbank Memorial Fund Report on the Impact of Recent Federal Policy Changes on Primary Care

"Report from the Frontlines of US Primary Care on the Impact of Recent Federal Policy Changes," examining the immediate effects of recent federal policy shifts on primary care delivery. This report, co-authored by Senior Scholar Larry A. Green, M.D., alongside frequent Farley Center collaborators Rebecca Etz, Kevin Grumbach, and Kurt Stange, leverages a rapid response survey of primary care clinicians to provide a real-time perspective on the challenges faced by those on the frontlines.

The report reveals early warning signs of policy-driven disruptions, including increased patient anxiety, concerns over access to care, and the impact on clinician professionalism. It highlights how recent policy changes, intended to improve efficiency, are instead creating unintended consequences that undermine the patient-clinician relationship. The report concludes with actionable policy recommendations aimed at mitigating these disruptions and ensuring that primary care remains a robust, accessible, and patient-centered component of the U.S. healthcare system. [Learn more and access the report.](#)

On Our Minds: We Need Better Valuation for Primary Care: Four Steps to Achieve it

Farley Center faculty members Drs. Lauren S. Hughes and Stephanie Gold both participated in the committee that authored the recent National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) report, "Improving Primary Care Valuation Processes to Inform the Physician Fee Schedule." This report examines the systemic underinvestment in primary care and proposes four key recommendations to address this imbalance. [Read their post summarizing the recommendations.](#)

Upcoming Event

Making the Invisible Visible: Communicating the Value of Public Health in a Changing Landscape: Join epidemiologist and TIME100 honoree, Dr. Katelyn Jetelina, on April 23, from 12:00-1:30 p.m. (MDT) for a critical discussion on reimagining public health communication in the 21st century. This event, co-hosted by the Firearm Injury Prevention Initiative and the Colorado Office of Gun Violence Prevention, offers in-person (limited availability) and webinar attendance. [Register today](#) to secure your spot.

What We're Reading

Colorado General Assembly

[Colorado lawmakers finalize budget proposal. Here's what they cut to close \\$1.2B gap—and what they didn't.](#) from the Colorado Sun underscores the state's struggle to balance essential services amidst a substantial deficit.

[What will public funding for abortion cost Colorado? Analysts estimate impact as lawmakers weigh move.](#) from the Denver Post reports on Colorado Senate Bill 183. This bill would implement Amendment 79 passed in November 2024, which established a constitutional right to abortion in Colorado and repealed the ban on the use of public funds to pay for abortion care. The bill has passed through the House and Senate, and would require coverage of abortion care services for Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus as well as public employee insurance plans.

[Colorado governor signs bill banning manufacture, drastically limiting sale of many semiautomatic guns](#) from the Colorado Sun focuses on Senate Bill 3, now law in Colorado.

Health Care Policy and Primary Care

[The health of US primary care: 2025 Scorecard report—the cost of neglect](#) from Milbank Memorial Fund reveals the critical state of US primary care, demonstrating how chronic underinvestment and systemic neglect have resulted in diminished access, quality, and equity of care.

[Americans highly prioritize primary care – a clear mandate for bipartisan action to address affordability & access](#) from United States of Care discusses new polling that indicates Americans' high prioritization of Primary care reveals significant cost and access challenges, underscoring the need for bipartisan policy changes to improve equity.

[Pandemic's effects linger in Americans' health ratings](#) from Gallup reveals polling data that Americans' self-reported mental and physical health remain at their lowest levels in 24 years, a decline that began around 2013 and accelerated sharply with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Social & Environmental

[Fast, walkable transit for metro Denver would cost \\$420 million a year for a decade, study says](#) from The Colorado Sun reports on the push from the Alliance to Transform Transportation for more walkable and transit-friendly communities, highlighting the potential for reduced air pollution and improved health equity.

[Colorado study suggests that proximity to oil and natural gas wells increases risk of childhood leukemia](#) from Colorado Public Radio indicates that children living near oil and gas wells, especially those aged 2-9, face a higher risk of leukemia, prompting calls for a reevaluation of setback regulations.

Federal Transition

[Colorado to lose more than \\$230 million in health grants as Trump administration claws back funds](#) from The Denver Post reports on the impact of losing federal funding for public health emergency planning, mental health and substance use treatment programs for Colorado.

[Federal upheaval spurs downgraded state revenue projections](#) from Pluribus News details how tariffs and mass layoffs at the federal level are affecting state fiscal analysts' outlooks and could potentially impact state-funded healthcare and social programs.

[Trump funding cuts threaten HIV prevention as disease gains ground in Colorado](#) from The Colorado Sun reports on how Vivent Health is navigating challenges to HIV prevention efforts in Colorado following federal funding cuts.

[Hospital Gun-Violence Prevention Programs May Be Caught in US Funding Crossfire](#) from KFF news focuses their story on work conducted at Denver Health.

Mental Health

[License applications pour in as Colorado prepares for psychedelic healing centers to open in late spring](#) from The Colorado Sun explores the implications of the state's first psychedelic healing center and the broader context of Colorado's psilocybin policy, including potential benefits and risks for patients.

[Reporter's notebook: 8 theories why fentanyl deaths are plummeting](#) from NPR discusses the surprising decrease in drug overdose deaths, citing potential reasons such as wider naloxone access, altered fentanyl potency, and evolving drug use patterns.

[Colorado law that made possession of small amounts of fentanyl a felony didn't reduce overdose deaths, study finds](#) from the Denver Post elaborates that the law also may have discouraged people from using medication to treat opioid addiction.

The Farley Center's March health policy journal club focused on the latest developments in healthcare coverage, payment models, public health strategies, and the "Make America Healthy Again" movement under the new Trump administration. [See all readings available on the health policy journal club web page.](#)

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Farley's Features is a monthly spotlight on critical and timely health policy issues from the Farley Health Policy Center. We focus on health policy research, translation, implementation, and education. We'd love to hear from you! Reach out to us at FarleyHealthPolicyCenter@cuanschutz.edu with any questions or comments about Farley's Features and our work in general.



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