



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

FRIDAY'S FEATURES

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NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

[Taking A Step Away...In Your Mind](#) is this week's newsletter from Ben Miller in which he suggests that we plan some time away, whether conditions around us allow, as the "act of planning" can do our brains almost as much good as the holiday itself.

[Announcing Colorado's First Behavioral Health Commissioner](#)...Dr. Morgan Medlock has been named the new Behavioral Health Commissioner for the State of Colorado, effective January 18, 2022. She comes to Colorado from Washington DC, Dept. of Behavioral Health where she served as the chief medical officer and director of crisis and emergency services.

[Certificate in Total Worker Health Program](#) is the only fully online program for Total Worker Health, the integrated discipline of promoting health, safety, and well-being for workers offered by the Colorado School of Public Health. Application deadline: February 15, 2022.

[The Dreyfus Affair: A Lesson for Our Time](#) is a hybrid event being presented February 7th, noon-1PM MT by Dr. Joseph Gal, professor emeritus of medicine, University of Colorado, who will address the Dreyfus case...a grave warning about the evil consequences of racism and antisemitism, still present today.

[COVID Expert Forum](#) is a panel discussion sponsored by the CU Department of Medicine January 18th, 5-6PM MT, and moderated by Dr. Vineet Chopra, Robert W. Schrier Chair.

[COVID's Impact on Health Equity and Access to Health & Social Services: A Conversation across the RWJF for Action Programs](#) is a webinar January 12th, 10-11AM MT that aims to describe what COVID has taught us about addressing health disparities, about needed cross-sector collaboration, and how we can better protect the most impacted communities in the next large-

scale emergency.



COMMUNITY HEALTH AND PREVENTION

[The Time Is Now: A Plan to Redesign Family Medicine Residency Education](#) is an article published this week in *Family Medicine* by Larry Green and colleagues who propose an innovative plan to develop community-based, community-owned family medicine residency programs.

[‘We’re coming to them’: One Colorado vaccine activist looks to get shots to every Latino](#) is a *CPR News* story by John Daley who writes how health care workers and advocates are taking information and vaccines to the Latino community.

[I work in a locked psychiatric ward. These days, you do too](#) is an opinion piece on *STAT* by Dr. Abraham Nussbaum, psychiatrist and chief education officer at Denver Health, who writes how living with an endemic virus “isn’t so different from being locked up on a psychiatric ward, and that if you want to get out of a restricted space you have to learn how to use confinement.”

[Obstacles to Physicians’ Emotional Health – Lessons from History](#) is a perspective piece in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by Dr. Agnes Arnold-Forster and colleagues who write about insights from the history of medicine that may help with solutions to physician struggles.

[The Doctor’s Oldest Tool](#) is a perspective piece by Dr. Elvin H. Geng in *The New England Journal of Medicine* in which the author reminds us that clinicians have an important card to play when it comes to developing trust and making a difference.

[Mental Health Questions on the Bar Application Prevent People from Seeking Help](#) is an op-ed in *Teen Vogue* by Samantha Braver that argues that mental health questions on bar applications are intrusive and prevent people from seeking the care they need.

[Your attention didn’t collapse. It was stolen.](#) is an interesting post in *The Guardian* by Johann Hari who writes about how social media and many other facets of modern life are destroying our ability to concentrate, including the “switch-cost effect” and what he did and learned when he ‘unplugged.’



POLICY EFFORTS

[The Patchwork U.S. Public Health System](#) is a perspective piece in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by Drs. Megan Wallace and Joshua M. Sharfstein who discuss the downfalls in the U.S. public health system made starker by the

pandemic that comes with a window of opportunity for improvement.

[Calling out Aversive Racism in Academic Medicine](#) is a perspective piece by Dr. Catherine L. Chen and colleagues in *The New England Journal of Medicine* about structural racism that is embedded in the laws, policies, institutions, and practices that “provide advantages to certain racial groups while disadvantaging others.”

[The Social Determinants of Declining Birth Rates in the United States: Implications for Population Health and Public Policy](#) is an opinion piece by Paula M. Lantz in *The Milbank Quarterly* who writes how the decline in births is a warning sign regarding the social and economic factors that are the fundamental drivers of all population dynamics, including population health.

[Why Colorado Teens Can Refuse Mental Health Treatment – Against their Parents’ Wishes](#) is a story in *5280* by Spencer Campbell who writes about a 2019 CO law aimed to expand adolescent access to mental health care, but a portion is interpreted by some to say that children must consent before they can be treated; and what lawmakers are doing to close the loophole.

[National Health Care Spending in 2020: Growth Driven by Federal Spending in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) is an article in *Health Affairs* by Micah Hartman and colleagues who write about how the acceleration of health care spending in 2020 was due largely to the pandemic.

[Problems with ‘Serious Mental Illness’ as a Policy Construct](#) is an article in *Health Affairs* by Jeffrey A. Buck who describes problems related to serious mental illness policy, and discusses the challenges they pose for effective mental health policies, generally.

[Message from the BMJ editor, Dr. Fiona Godlee, to Dr. Larry Green](#)..her last as BMJ Editor in Chief...in which she includes some of their top articles published in 2021 at the end of the letter.

[After a brutal year of overdose deaths, the United States needs urgent, coordinated action](#) is an opinion piece on *The Hill* by Regina Labelle who makes a plea to take three steps NOW beginning with scaling up harm reduction.



[The Value of Integrating Ob and Substance Use Disorder Treatment: Initial Findings](#) is an issue brief prepared by the Farley Health Policy Center in collaboration with the Practice Innovation Program that summarizes work done as part of a pilot (Integrated Care for Women and Babies) to help six clinics integrate obstetric services with behavioral health and substance use treatment at the same location.

[Achieving Racial and Ethnic Equity in U.S. Health Care](#) is an analysis from the Commonwealth Fund that finds that health care systems are failing many

people of color in every state.

[Evidence-Based Message Strategies to Increase Public Support for State Investment in Early Childhood Education: Results from a Longitudinal Panel Experiment](#) is a post on *The Milbank Quarterly* by Jeff Niederdeppe and colleagues about a study that tested the effectiveness of communication strategies to increase public support for state investments in affordable, accessible, and high-quality childcare for all.

[It's Time to Promote Aging in Community: Opportunities for States](#) is a post on the *Milbank Memorial Fund* blog by Alice Bonner and colleagues report on findings from a recent AARP survey and suggest that enabling older adults to remain at home and out of hospitals and nursing homes could lead to significant savings for Medicaid.

[Building a sustainable behavioral health crisis continuum](#) is a post on the *USC-Brookings Schaeffer on Health Policy* site by Richard G. Frank and Vikki Wachino about an initiative 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 Brooks.

[U.S. Drug Overdose Deaths Increased by 31 Percent in 2020; Up 56 Percent for Synthetic Opioids](#) is a post on the *Well Being Trust* site that discusses findings from a NCHS report released the last week of 2021 using official annual mortality data.

[To Help Fight a Mental Health Crisis in Schools, Community Groups Step In](#) is a post on *EdSurge* by Noble Ingram who writes about a California report from the Little Hoover Commission that found that 42% of students indicated mental health wellness as a top priority leading to schools partnering with community organizations to meet this need.

['Why didn't anyone help?': A failing mental health system leads to deadly police encounters](#) is a story in *Eagle Times* by Teddy Rosenbluth that calls out how no federal or state agencies routinely collect data on the role of mental illness plays in policy shootings. Independent databases, compiled by researchers and news outlets have estimated a quarter of fatal shootings in the United States involve someone with mental illness.



[Advancing Action on Health Equity through a Socio-legal Model of Health](#) is a post on *The Milbank Quarterly* by Ashley Schram and colleagues who highlight the value of health justice partnerships in providing a road map for implementing a sociolegal model of health to reduce health inequities by strengthening legal capacities for health among the health workforce and patients.

[Integrating Medical, Financial, and Legal Health Solutions to Positively Impact Social Determinants of Health](#) is a lecture January 11th, 11AMMT sponsored

by Vanderbilt School of Nursing during which Dr. Jean Edwards will share highlights from her program of research focused on promoting equity in healthcare access, affordability, and health outcomes for underserved communities by intervening on the social determinants of health.



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