



EUGENE S. FARLEY, JR. HEALTH POLICY CENTER

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Friday the 13th — paraskavedekatriaphobia or friggatriskaidekaphobia are scientific terms for fear of Friday the 13th. It's unclear when or why Friday the 13th became associated with bad luck. It may be biblical given that the 13th guest at the Last Supper betrayed Jesus. The story goes that his crucifixion, the next day, was a Friday. But the fear has spread...hotels and hospitals often skip the 13th floor and some airports omit Gate 13. It's believed to be an unlucky day in many countries, but a lucky one in others. Alfred Hitchcock was born on Friday the 13th.



- **News, Announcements, Celebrations**

- [*Mental Health Colorado's Hill Day 2017*](#) this is an opportunity to meet with your state legislators to talk about mental health and substance use disorder policy in Colorado. Meet at the Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 1370 Grant Street, February 2nd at 8am for breakfast and a morning of advocacy training.
- *Levitt Distinguish Speaker Series*, sponsored by the CU Department of Family Medicine, will be hosting Dayna Bowen Matthew February 8th. Dayna is a professor in the CU schools of law and public health, co-founder of the Colorado Health Equity Project and her latest book, [*Just Medicine: A Cure for Racial Inequality in American Health Care*](#) was just published. Her noon presentation, "Preventive Lawyering: HOW Medical-Legal Partnerships Improve Health and Social Outcomes" will take place on the Anschutz Medical Campus, in Ed 2 N, #2104. To RSVP, contact me, [Linda Niebauer](#).

- **Community Prevention**

- [*Psychology essential to achieving goals of patient-centered medical homes*](#) is an article posted on *EurekAlert!* about the January issue of *American Psychologist* that features that contains five articles that highlight the valuable of role of psychologists in PCMHs, and the evidence that their inclusion results in improved health outcomes.
- [*Researchers begin to Look at Gun Violence as Public Health Issue*](#) is an NPR interview by Michel Martin with Gary Slutkin, physician and epidemiologist who founded the national organization Cure Violence; and Andrew Papachristos, sociology professor at Yale who studies social networks and street gangs. These

two researchers have started to look at gun violence as a public health epidemic, and how to take a holistic approach and reinterpret the problem.

- **Policy Efforts**

- [*Alabamians pay more for health insurance than Californians; Trump and Clinton voters weigh in*](#) is a story by Anna Claire Vollers on *AL.com* about the Alabama/California Conversation Project, a collaboration between Alabama Media Group and Spaceship Media to facilitate engagement among communities at odds. Since mid-December, a group of ~25 women from Alabama who supported Trump and 25 women from California's San Francisco Bay Area who supported Clinton, have been in regular conversation in a closed FB group about their experiences with the health insurance system.
- [*Coloradans Who Benefited from Obamacare Wonder What 'Repeal and Replace' Will Bring*](#) is a story by John Daley on Colorado Public Radio that discusses how the ACA changed the equation for hundreds of thousands of Coloradans and includes an interview with Dr. Mike Russum, director of a new DHHA clinic, Federico Pena Family Health Center, that has greatly benefited from Obamacare.
- [*Unfinished business: Bipartisan help for child victims of the opioid crisis*](#) is an opinion piece posted on *The Hill* by Dayna Matthew, visiting fellow in economic studies at The Brookings Institute and Alice Rivlin, a senior fellow at the same institute about the necessity for bipartisan support around helping children whose futures are threatened by the opioid crisis. And how the opioid epidemic is a public health crisis that crosses party lines and is an ideal opportunity for Congress to get back to working together on health issues.
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- **Research, Data, Evaluation**

- [*Study Finds Links to Health Disparities*](#) is an article in *Valley News* by Rick Jurgens about a report resulting from a year-long RWJF-funded study about health inequities cited in studies that show the United States lags behind other countries in key measure of health and that within the United States, there are wide disparities in health and overall well-being, i.e., a 25-year variation in life expectancies within such cities as New Orleans and Kansas City, 75% of 17-24 year olds were disqualified from military service due to persistent health problems, lack of education or felony conviction.
- [*U.S. health care admin costs are double the average*](#) is an article by Alanna Petroff on *CNN Money* about how American health care providers could save a lot of money if they trimmed administrative costs according to a report published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Such costs account for more than 8% of spending compared with 3% on average globally by health care systems.
- [*How to Write a Health Policy Brief*](#) is a recent publication by Dr. Shale Wong and her Farley Health Policy Center colleagues that provides guidance about how to write a brief with the intention of impacting policy...brevity being the strength.

- [The toll poverty takes on children's mental health](#) is an article on the CBS News site by Mary Elizabeth Dallas about a Cornell University study findings that suggest that growing up in poverty exposes children to greater levels of stress, which can lead to psychological problems later in life. The study PI says this is a societal issue for which the data could be changed if we decide to reallocate resources like we did with the elderly and Social Security.
 - [How do we preserve mental health care as an essential benefit?](#) is a guest commentary by Andrew Romanoff in *The Denver Post* who reported that the good news in Colorado is the bipartisan support for mental health according to a survey that Mental Health America conducted among Colorado General Assembly candidates last summer. 91% supported requiring that mental health care be an essential benefit, 94% supported mental health parity, 92% supported requiring that insurers maintain an adequate network of mental health providers, and 92% said the state should expand access to treatment instead of sending people with mental health and substance use disorders into the criminal justice system. The challenge now...to turn these sentiments into action.
 - [EHR Use, Care Coordination Key to Integrated Primary Care](#) is a posting on *EHR Intelligence* by Sara Heath about how healthcare leaders at integrated care facilities would be ahead of the curve if they enlisted strong EHR use for better care coordination between primary care and behavioral specialists.
- **SIM Update**
 - The SIM team will release a request for applications next month for primary care practices to participate in the second cohort of SIM. [Click here](#) for more information.
 - SIM is working with the Colorado Telehealth Network to expand broadband access to practices across the state to enhance data reporting capacity and lay the groundwork for telemedicine. [Read more here.](#)
 - [SIM helps redefine behavioral health in primary care settings](#) is an article by Heather Grimshaw in the *SIM Newsletter* that captures behavioral and primary care integration work in a participating practice.
 - [Committed to Health in Rocky Ford](#) is a story about a participating SIM practice owned/run by Doug Miller, a family nurse practitioner. Though a private clinic, nearly 3 of 4 patients are Medicaid clients in a town where the median income is \$26,000.

