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Insights from the Healing American Healthcare Coalition™

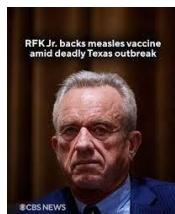
Here comes the "RFK Jr. & Dr. Oz Show." Fasten your seat belts!

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HEALING AMERICAN HEALTHCARE
COALITION

From the Editor: As RFK Jr. and Dr. Oz take control of America's health, the Trump administration stops Medicare from covering anti-obesity drugs and claws back \$12 billion in federal grants supporting public health. Finland again is the world's happiest country while the US hits an all-time low. Click on the headline for the full article; subscribe to TMR [here](#).



[RFK Jr. visits epicenter of Texas measles outbreak](#), by Devi Shastri and Amanda Seitz, Associated Press, 4/6/25

TMR Topline – After a second child died from measles, HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. visited Gaines County Texas to comfort the families who have buried two young children. It was the third death from the measles outbreak. All victims were unvaccinated. In a lengthy statement posted on X he said that the MMR vaccine was *"the most effective way to prevent the spread of measles."* It has been used safely for more than 60 years and is 97% effective against measles after two doses. RFK Jr.'s earlier recommendation of vitamin A treatments has resulted in Covenant Children's Hospital in Lubbock treating several children for vitamin A toxicity. Dr. Peter Marks, the FDA's former vaccine chief who was forced out said, *"This is the epitome of an absolute needless death. These kids should get vaccinated — that's how you prevent people from dying of measles."*



[5 things to know as Dr. Oz prepares to lead Medicare and Medicaid](#), by Selena Simmons-Duffin, NPR, 4/3/25

TMR Topline – Dr. Mehmet Oz was confirmed by the Senate by a 53-45 vote to be CMS administrator responsible for the Medicare and Medicaid programs that provide coverage for nearly half the country. A former cardiothoracic surgeon at Columbia

University, Dr. Oz launched *"The Dr. Oz Show"* which ran for years and promoted products such as weight loss drugs. He didn't work in health policy, and has experience treating patients on Medicare and Medicaid as a physician. He did not commit to fight cuts to Medicaid.

On Medicare, Oz has filmed [promotional videos](#) about Medicare Advantage (MA) plans and owns stock in UnitedHealth Group. MA essentially privatizes Medicare, and insurance companies have been accused of [cherry-picking enrollees](#) who are younger and healthier and [overcharging the program](#) for treatment. The government will pay \$83 billion more for MA enrollees in 2024 than if they had instead been in traditional Medicare. Oz believes that being healthy is a *"patriotic duty."*

TMR's Take: So will the Mad Hatter and the Wizard – Oz – *"Make America Healthy Again?"* Given their prior track records as vaccine skeptic and supplement salesman, **TMR** is not optimistic. In an *"Alice Through the Looking Glass"* moment, with the measles outbreak approaching 700 cases, RFK Jr. **finally** is encouraging people to [get the measles vaccine](#) while slashed federal funding is [closing vaccine clinics](#) throughout the US.

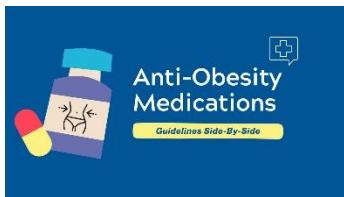
Trump Administration Abruptly Cuts Billions From State Health Services
States have been told that they can no longer use grants that were funding infectious disease management and addiction services.



[Trump Administration Abruptly Cuts Billions From State Health Services](#), by Apoorva Mandavilli, Margot Sanger-Katz and Jan Hoffman, 3/26/25

TMR Topline – HHS abruptly canceled more than \$12 billion in federal grants to states that were being used for tracking infectious diseases, mental health services, addiction treatment and other urgent health issues. The funds, which were allocated during the Covid-19 pandemic, include about \$11.4 billion from the CDC and about \$1 billion from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The effect was felt immediately in Lubbock Texas, stopping work supported by three grants that helped fund the response to the widening measles outbreak there. The cuts are likely to further hamstring state health departments, which are [already underfunded](#) and [struggling with](#) competing demands from chronic diseases, resurgent infections like syphilis and emerging threats like bird flu. HHS spokesman Andrew Nixon said *"The Covid-19 pandemic is over,*

and H.H.S. will no longer waste billions of taxpayer dollars responding to a nonexistent pandemic that Americans moved on from years ago."



Trump administration nixes plan to cover anti-obesity drugs through Medicare, by Tom Murphy, Associated Press, 4/4/25

TMR Topline – CMS has announced that it will not cover drugs like Zepbound and Wegovy for weight loss under Medicare's Part D prescription drug coverage plan. HHS Secretary RFK Jr. is an outspoken opponent of the injectable obesity treatments which have exploded due to the potentially life-changing weight loss that some patients experience. Americans favor having Medicaid and Medicare cover the costs, but many insurers, employers and other bill payers have been reluctant to pay for the drugs that can cost hundreds of dollars a month. Supporters argue that treating obesity can actually reduce longer-term costs by cutting down on heart attacks and other expensive health complications that can arise from the disease. More than a dozen state Medicaid programs already cover the drugs for obesity.

TMR's Take: Obesity is the second-leading cause of preventable deaths, affects 42% of American adults and costs the healthcare system \$173 billion annually. The weight-loss drugs have proven so effective that they can halt, then reverse, the progression of obesity.



Drugmakers sink after key FDA official ousted as Trump plans health overhaul, by Manas Mishra, Reuters, 3/31/25

TMR Topline – News that Peter Marks, the FDA's top vaccine official, had been forced to resign sent drug-makers share plummeting as the first quarter ended. During Trump's first term Marks played a key role in developing Covid-19 vaccines. He was given the choice to resign or be fired. Dr. Marks resigned.



Some 1,900 scientists accuse Trump of 'wholesale assault' on science, by Kelsey Ables, Washington Post, 4/1/25

TMR Topline – More than 1,900 scientists from the National Academies of Science, Engineering and

Medicine have signed a letter warning the Trump administration that it is threatening scientific independence. They are urging it to cease its wholesale assault on US science. Since taking office, President Trump and his team are slashing funding, terminating grants and attempting to weed out ideas they deem to be unacceptable. The scientists said the administration is blocking research on topics it finds objectionable, such as climate change, vaccine safety and economic trends. Funding for the NIH had dropped by 60% by March.

Richard Aslin, a senior scientist at the Yale School of Medicine, said the scientists want *"to make sure the American public is aware that this is not just about us losing our jobs. It's about the whole country losing a tremendously valuable resource that has made us, honestly, the envy of the world."* He also said government funding for science has remained mostly steady for the past 50 years — providing stability that is crucial, given that discovery and innovation can take years.



Finland is again ranked the happiest country in the world. The US falls to its lowest-ever position, by Kirsten Grieshaber and Kostya Manekov, Associated Press 3/20/25

TMR Topline – For the 8th straight year, Finland is ranked as the happiest country in the world, followed by Denmark, Iceland and Sweden with Norway at #7. The US has never broken into the top ten, peaking at 11th place in 2012, and hit an all-time low at 24th place. Country rankings were based on answers people give when asked to rate their own lives. Researchers say that beyond health and wealth, some factors that influence happiness sound deceptively simple: sharing meals with others, having somebody to count on for social support, and household size.

TMR's Take: Despite having Europe's shortest growing season and an 830-mile-long border with Russia, Finland

and its Scandinavian neighbors consistently rank as the world's happiest nations. Meanwhile, the Trump administration is ignoring *"Lessons from the Pandemic?"* as bird flu and measles spread. The book is available at Amazon in both soft-cover and eBook versions. Click here to buy it.

