

## IMPROVING HEALTH THROUGH EQUITABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

### *Meet Our Webinar Guests*

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**Ángel Ross** is a Program Associate at [PolicyLink](#), where they research and collaborate with local and national partners through the National Equity Atlas and the All-In Cities initiative. Ángel specializes in leveraging data to support advocacy and to build the case for equity and racial economic inclusion.



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**Jaime R. Torres DPM, MS**, is currently the Vice President of Community Relations and Partnerships at [Urban Health Plan](#)—one of the largest community health center networks in New York. He is responsible for facilitating, developing and managing strategic partnerships on behalf of the organization. Previously, Dr. Torres was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as the Regional Director of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Region II, covering New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. In this role, he served as HHS Secretary's representative in the Region, and was the lead contact with federal, state, local, tribal and territorial government officials. Prior to working at the U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services, he served as Associate Director of Consultative Services at Coler-Goldwater Specialty Hospital in New York City, part of the Health & Hospital Corporation, which is the largest public health system in the nation.

In 1984, after completing his residency, he began to work in the South Bronx where he saw firsthand the human reality of health disparities and the plight of the uninsured and underinsured. He began to work with local community groups to improve health services. In order to learn more about health policy, he applied and was accepted to the National Hispanic Medical Association's Leadership Program, and completed a Master of Science in Community Health from Long Island University.

Dr. Torres is president of Latinos for Healthcare Equity, a not-for-profit organization created to improve access to quality, affordable healthcare for the Latino community. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Fordham University and a doctor of podiatric medicine degree from New York College of Podiatric Medicine. He also has a Master of Science degree in community health administration from Long Island University.

In 2009, because of his advocacy work in healthcare, he was selected by the Hispanic Business Magazine as one of “100 Most Influential Hispanics” in the United States. He was also honored with Dr. Helen Rodriguez Trias’ “National Latino Leadership Award”, and in 2010 he received El Diario-La Prensa “El Award.”

Dr. Torres is also an Associate at the not-for-profit Aesthetic Realism Foundation in New York City, the education founded by the philosopher, poet and historian Eli Siegel, and studies in classes taught by the Chairman of Education Ellen Reiss. He is co-author of *Aesthetic Realism and the Answer to Racism* (Orange Angle Press 2004) and a frequent speaker on topics including racism, the uninsured, and ethics in healthcare issues. Additionally, he has authored articles which have been printed across the United States in both Spanish and English, concerning ethics and the healthcare system.

He lives in New York City with his wife, art educator and lecturer, Donita Ellison.