



## Dennis Rivera

Speaker at PQC Summit on Cost and Quality:

*Confronting the Chronic Care Challenge*

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Dennis Rivera is the Chair of SEIU Healthcare, the healthcare division of the Service Employees International Union. Launched in June 2007, SEIU Healthcare unites over one million healthcare workers to provide the highest quality health care to every patient, heal our nation's broken healthcare system, and bring hope of better jobs and better lives to millions of caregivers throughout the U.S. Dennis Rivera is also the Chair of the Partnership for Quality Care (PQC).

As President of 1199SEIU from 1989 to 2007, Rivera oversaw dramatic growth in union membership as well as national political strength. Formed by New York City pharmacists in the early 1930's, 1199SEIU grew from 75,000 members to a multi-state union with 300,000 members throughout New York, Massachusetts, Maryland and DC, the largest union on the East Coast. In 1996, Rivera oversaw the creation of the Healthcare Education Project partnership with the Greater New York Hospital Association. He also helped to pioneer Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus, providing coverage for New York's children and working poor.

During his service as President, Rivera's knowledge of hospital systems and his desire to improve the quality of patient care transformed the state of labor-management relationships in New York. His innovative partnership approach with hospital providers led to the expansion of education and training programs that currently serve approximately 40,000 healthcare workers each year.

Born in Aibonito, Puerto Rico, in 1950, Rivera attended the Colegio Universitario de Cayey, and then left school to become a fulltime union organizer of Puerto Rican hospital workers. After moving to New York in 1977, he worked as an organizer for Local 1199 in several of the city's healthcare facilities. Rivera currently holds a variety of posts in the national and New York labor movements and serves on the board of Riverkeeper and the Hispanic Education and Legal Fund.