



## **Element Care Featured in First MassPACE State House Day**

*State Association Brings Together PACE Leaders, Participants and Policymakers to Share Successes and Address State's Growing Challenges in Caring for Nursing Home Eligible Adults*

**LYNN, Mass. – March 27, 2015** – MassPACE, the state association of Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), will hold its inaugural State House Day on Thursday, April 2, 2015. As Massachusetts and states across the country face the challenges of caring for nursing home eligible individuals, including those who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid, PACE programs have been addressing this need through an innovative team-based, coordinated care model that improves and extends participants' lives while lowering costs. This event will mark the first time PACE participants, staff, caregivers and policymakers from across the Commonwealth will be coming together at the Massachusetts State House as MassPACE to share their insights and best practices on caring for nursing home eligible adults.

"PACE has been a pioneer in terms of its clinical and financial model. It offers a comprehensive care model that provides a cost-effective alternative to nursing home care. The data shows we improve our participants' quality of life and we see that in our PACE Centers every day," said Laura Wagner, Senior Vice President of Geriatric Services at East Boston Neighborhood Health Center and Chair of MassPACE. "Clinically, PACE continues to innovate using a team-based approach to caring for older adults and delivering highly coordinated care. Financially, PACE programs are capitated and fully at-risk for the entirety of our patients' care."

MassPACE will begin the day with a kick-off event which will include remarks from Ken Smith, Director, Office of Long Term Services and Supports of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs and MassHealth. The featured panel at the event will include Adam Burrows, Medical Director of Upham's Elder Service Plan, and Dr. David Wilner, Vice President & Medical Director of Summit ElderCare at Fallon Health.

## **Element Care PACE Participant Speaks at State House**

Joining the featured panel will be Betty Ann “Chickie” Synder who will share her transformational experience as a participant at Element Care’s PACE program in Lynn, MA. Prior to PACE, Chickie was bed-ridden, rarely uttered a word and nearly gave up on life. Today, she is a powerful voice and PACE advocate who will be discussing the benefits of Element Care’s PACE program with other PACE programs across the state.

“This event at the State House will help to educate policymakers about a highly successful program that offers older adults and their families a real alternative,” said Robert Wakefield, Executive Director of Element Care. “We are also excited to introduce our state association, MassPACE, to the Legislature. We look forward to working closely with our elected representatives to ensure that access to PACE is within reach to all who need it.”

The kick-off will also include an awards ceremony where several PACE legislative leaders will receive the inaugural MassPACE Legislative Champion Award. Later in the day, PACE programs will visit individual legislative offices to ask for their support on legislation that will address a current gap in PACE eligibility that puts PACE out of reach for a number of nursing home eligible residents of the Commonwealth.

### **About MassPACE**

MassPACE is a state association advocating for the Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) in Massachusetts. Through its ongoing education programs, MassPACE works to build awareness about Massachusetts PACE programs among policymakers, the aging community, and healthcare thought leaders throughout the state. For more information about MassPACE or PACE programs, contact Kaitlin McColgan at [kmccolgan@massleague.org](mailto:kmccolgan@massleague.org).

### **About Element Care**

Element Care is a non-profit health organization with a simple mission: to help people live safely and comfortably in their homes and their communities for as long as they can, keeping their stays in hospitals and nursing facilities as minimal as possible. Element Care provides complete health care to eligible people through PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) throughout the Massachusetts North Shore and the Merrimack Valley. For more information, visit [www.elementcare.org](http://www.elementcare.org).

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