



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Vanessa Salas-Wright Joins Element Care  
as Clinical Social Worker in Greater Lowell**

**LOWELL, Mass.** – September 7, 2016 – Element Care, a non-profit health care organization, announced that Vanessa Salas-Wright, MSW, LICSW has joined the behavioral health team for its Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). Fluent in English and Spanish, Ms. Salas-Wright has deep behavioral health experience in interdisciplinary community clinics and health centers, as well as extensive expertise in culturally-sensitive social work practice with the Latino community.

Ms. Salas-Wright will be responsible for conducting behavioral health assessments with an emphasis on trauma and issues related to growing older; working with Element Care's interdisciplinary care team to design effective, holistic treatment plans; coordinating care for health and mental health issues related to loss and stress; and providing education and psycho-social support to participants and their families and caregivers. She will also be an important resource to the Latino community in the Greater Lowell area through giving talks and publishing articles relating to loss, separation and trauma.

“In the past year, approximately 80 percent of Element Care's new PACE participants have entered the program with a behavioral health need,” said Gloria Burdett, Director of Behavioral Health at Element Care. “And, with her rare combination of behavioral health skills, knowledge of the PACE coordinated care delivery model and expertise addressing the unique issues of immigrant communities, Vanessa will be a valuable resource helping Element Care engage with our diverse participants in the Merrimack Valley and improve their quality of life.”

Ms. Salas-Wright has worked in a wide array of clinical social work and related positions at El Buen Samaritano Clinic in Austin, Texas, East Boston Elder Service Plan (PACE), Casa Latina in

Seattle, Harbor Communities Overcoming Violence in Chelsea, MA and at the Harvard School of Public Health /Mass General Hospital. She received her MSW at the University of Washington and her BA from Boston College.

“Having spent my career working with older adults, the Latino community, and integrated behavioral health centers, I couldn't be happier to be joining the team at Element Care,” said Ms. Salas-Wright. “It's very exciting to have the chance to be a part of Element Care's PACE and to get to work in the vibrant community of Lowell. I can't wait to get to know the participants, their support people, and the greater Lowell community.”

For more information about Element Care, please call 877-803-5564 or visit [www.elementcare.org](http://www.elementcare.org).

### **About Element Care**

*Element Care, founded in 1995, is a non-profit healthcare 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, the Merrimack Valley and the northeast region of Middlesex County. For more information, visit [www.elementcare.org](http://www.elementcare.org).*

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Vanessa Salas-Wright, MSW, LICSW