Vermont’s Medicaid Initiative

Eoana Sturges, MPH
Tobacco Program Manager

August 18, 2015
Collaboration: Medicaid & Tobacco Cessation

- Vermont Tobacco Control Program & Medicaid
  - A partnership built on data and research
- Solidifying the partnership: Key Strategies
  - Data sharing & evidence from Massachusetts
  - Identifying & addressing Quality Improvement needs for both programs.
  - Collaborative planning on addressing tobacco use
Barriers

- Changes in VDH and Medicaid leadership
- Scheduling meetings with busy people
- Finding the right person to answer questions
- Learning the language
- Time to do the work needed
Successes

- **Expanding NRT benefits to Medicaid beneficiaries**
  - 2009: Chantix is added to Rx coverage
  - 2012: VT is recognized as 1 of 16 states that offer all 7 NRT medications
  - 2014: Quantity limits on preferred products are removed & dual therapy NRT supported.

- **Activating CPT codes**
  - 2010: CPT codes for individual cessation counseling for pregnant beneficiaries activated.
  - 2014: CPT codes for brief and intermediate cessation counseling activated for all beneficiaries in December.
  - 2015: CPT code (HQ modifier) approved for group cessation counseling in March
Successes

Results – Record Medicaid Participation

Vermont Department of Health
Successes

NRT Rx Claims and CPT Code Utilization by Medicaid Providers

Vermont Department of Health

CPT codes turned on for all beneficiaries December 2013
Lessons learned

- Be patient
- Be ready with supportive research and data
- Get leadership support from both agencies
- PROMOTE!
- Stay connected with engaged data