Tobacco Cessation Coverage Assessments
The assessment has been completed and key findings presented at a stakeholder summit May, 2014. However, with the recent guidance issued by the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor defining what constitutes compliance with the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act, health plans will be resurveyed. Several of the health plans have taken this language to be interpreted by their lawyers.

State as an Employer
The NC State Health Plan contracts with the Division of Public Health for QuitlineNC services and reimburses the Division of Public Health for QuitlineNC coaching, quit kits, evaluation and pharmacotherapy. Teachers and state employees are covered by the NC State Health Plan (SHP). Coverage includes individual face-to-face counseling by a physician or behavioral therapist and telephonic counseling through QuitlineNC. If enrolled into the multi-call program with QuitlineNC, members may receive eight weeks of nicotine patches, gum, or a combination of patches and gum. Otherwise, members with a prescription can receive over-the-counter nicotine patches with a five dollar co-pay. The SHP also covers bupropion, Chantix, nicotine nasal spray and nicotine inhaler with co-pays.

Employers
North Carolina has not directly completed any contracts or agreements with any employers or employer groups due to the difficulty of accepting private funding within the Division of Public Health. However, Public Health has recently executed a Memorandum of Understanding with a not-for-profit foundation, The NC Public Health Foundation. The Foundation will serve as the fiscal agent between the employer or health plan and the state quitline vendor. The Foundation will offer health plans/employers one of two packages to purchase: full comprehensive services (payer pays for coaching, pharmacotherapy, and quit kits) or NRT services (payer pays for NRT only for members). After finalizing the agreement with the employer or health plan, the quitline will offer services within 8 weeks. To date, the foundation is finalizing two agreements with the Orange County Department of Health to offer free 8 weeks of NRT to Orange County residents and the North Carolina Medical Society to offer free 8 weeks of NRT to its members.

Health Plans
North Carolina through its partnership work has engaged one of North Carolina’s largest health plans to purchase quitline services for its members. The health plan will contract directly with the state quitline vendor. North Carolina Public Health is in the process of finalizing a data use agreement to ensure that quitline data is available to the state tobacco program.

Coalitions/Summits
North Carolina held a summit in collaboration with ASTHO in May 2014. Thirty five individuals representing universities, health plans, health care systems, hospitals, state and local health departments, foundations, Medicaid, physician groups, and nonprofits of North Carolina convened in Durham, North Carolina to explore strategies for incrementally reaching eight percent or 123,200 of current tobacco users with evidence-based treatment.

Broker Engagement
Several brokers have contacted the QuitlineNC Director regarding use of the Quitline for their employer groups. Brokers will be contacted by the Director to discuss partnership options.

Resource Development
A smokefree worksite toolkit will be developed with tools for policy development and tobacco cessation coverage or partnership options with return on investment documents modified from NAQC Public-Private Partnership documents in FY15.

Dedicated Staff
North Carolina has a dedicated Tobacco Treatment Specialist whose primary responsibility is promotion of health system change to fully integrate tobacco dependence treatment into clinical care and promoting referrals from health care providers. Having this dedicated FTE allows the Quitline Director to dedicate more time for public-private partnership development.

Medicaid Match
North Carolina has an executed IMOA FFP with Medicaid and has drawn down funds in FY14.