

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION establishing the Severe Mental Illness Task  
2 Force.

3 WHEREAS, severe mental illness is defined by its duration and the disability it  
4 produces and includes disorders that produce psychotic symptoms such as schizophrenia,  
5 schizoaffective disorder, and severe forms of major depressive disorder and bipolar  
6 disorder; and

7 WHEREAS, severe mental illnesses often produce distortions of perception,  
8 delusions, hallucinations, and unusual behaviors that can reflect a loss of contact with  
9 perceived reality; and

10 WHEREAS, approximately 4.7 percent of adults in Kentucky live with a severe  
11 mental illness such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or major depressive disorder; and

12 WHEREAS, a minimum of 50 beds per 100,000 people is considered necessary to  
13 provide minimally adequate care for individuals with severe mental illnesses, and  
14 Kentucky fails to meet this minimum standard with only 11.3 beds per 100,000 people;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Kentucky is ranked 29th in the nation for mental health workforce  
17 availability; and

18 WHEREAS, Kentucky is ranked 19th in the nation for providing access to mental  
19 health services; and

20 WHEREAS, fewer than 47 percent of adults in Kentucky with a mental illness  
21 receive any form of treatment; and

22 WHEREAS, severe mental illnesses are treatable, and with proper treatment and  
23 management, people with these disorders can experience recovery;

24 NOW, THEREFORE,

25 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***  
26 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:***

27 ➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission shall establish the Severe

1 Mental Illness Task Force to study the provision of mental health services to adults  
2 diagnosed with a severe mental illness in Kentucky.

3 →Section 2. The duties of the task force shall include but are not limited to:

- 4 (1) Assessing the availability of adequate treatment options, medication, case  
5 management, and affordable housing for individuals with a severe mental illness;
- 6 (2) Examining the relationship between being diagnosed with a severe mental  
7 illness and experiencing homelessness and making recommendations to reduce the  
8 occurrence rate of homelessness, among individuals with a severe mental illness in  
9 Kentucky;
- 10 (3) Evaluating the effectiveness of mental health courts, crisis intervention teams,  
11 and forensic assertive community treatment in Kentucky in diverting individuals with a  
12 severe mental illness away from the criminal justice system, and making  
13 recommendations for expanding these programs; and
- 14 (4) Exploring the efficacy and utilization of Tim's Law, KRS 202A.0811 to  
15 202A.0831, assistive outpatient treatment, and assertive community treatment in ensuring  
16 access to adequate treatment options and reducing reliance on emergency medical  
17 services as the primary source of mental health treatment by individuals with a severe  
18 mental illness.

19 →Section 3. The Severe Mental Illness Task Force shall be composed of the  
20 following members with final membership of the task force being subject to the  
21 consideration and approval of the Legislative Research Commission:

- 22 (1) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of  
23 the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be designated by the Speaker of the  
24 House of Representatives as a co-chair of the task force;
- 25 (2) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Floor  
26 Leader of the House of Representatives;
- 27 (3) Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of

1 whom shall be designated by the President of the Senate as a co-chair of the task force;

2 (4) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the  
3 Senate;

4 (5) The commissioner of the Department for Medicaid Services;

5 (6) The commissioner of the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental  
6 and Intellectual Disabilities;

7 (7) The commissioner of the Department of Corrections;

8 (8) One mental health court judge, recommended by the Department of Specialty  
9 Courts within the Administrative Office of the Courts; and

10 (9) One representative from the Homelessness and Housing Coalition of  
11 Kentucky.

12 ➔Section 4. The task force shall meet monthly during the 2020 Interim of the  
13 General Assembly. The task force shall submit findings and recommendations to the  
14 Legislative Research Commission for referral to the appropriate committee or committees  
15 by December 1, 2020.

16 ➔Section 5. Provisions of this Resolution to the contrary notwithstanding, the  
17 Legislative Research Commission shall have the authority to alternatively assign the  
18 issues identified herein to an interim joint committee or subcommittee thereof, and to  
19 designate a study completion date.