

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

3 WHEREAS, approximately 2.6 percent of adults in Kentucky live with a severe
4 mental illness such as schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, major depressive disorder,
5 or bipolar disorder; and

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

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

11 WHEREAS, severe mental illness can have a significant impact on individuals,
12 their families, and their communities; and

13 WHEREAS, Kentucky ranks 45th in per capita spending on mental health services;
14 and

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

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

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

21 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

24 ➔Section 1. The Legislative Research Commission shall establish the Severe
25 Mental Illness Task Force to study the provision of mental health services to adults
26 diagnosed with a severe mental illness in Kentucky.

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

1 (1) Assessing the availability of adequate treatment options, medication, case
2 management, and affordable housing for individuals with a severe mental illness;

3 (2) Evaluating the efficacy of psychiatric medications and identifying strategies to
4 maximize the use of best practices in medication therapy, management, and adherence;

5 (3) Examining the relationship between being diagnosed with a severe mental
6 illness and experiencing homelessness and making recommendations to reduce the
7 occurrence rate of homelessness among individuals with a severe mental illness in
8 Kentucky;

9 (4) Evaluating the effectiveness of mental health courts, crisis intervention teams,
10 and forensic assertive community treatment in Kentucky in diverting individuals with a
11 severe mental illness away from the criminal justice system, and making
12 recommendations for expanding these programs; and

13 (5) Exploring the efficacy and utilization of Tim's Law, KRS 202A.0811 to
14 202A.0831, assistive outpatient treatment, and assertive community treatment in ensuring
15 access to adequate treatment options and reducing reliance on emergency medical
16 services as the primary source of mental health treatment by individuals with a severe
17 mental illness.

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

21 (1) Two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of
22 the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be designated by the Speaker of the
23 House of Representatives as a co-chair of the task force;

24 (2) One member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Minority Floor
25 Leader of the House of Representatives;

26 (3) Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of
27 whom shall be designated by the President of the Senate as a co-chair of the task force;

- 1 (4) One member of the Senate appointed by the Minority Floor Leader of the
2 Senate;
- 3 (5) The commissioner of the Department for Medicaid Services;
- 4 (6) The commissioner of the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental
5 and Intellectual Disabilities;
- 6 (7) The commissioner of the Department of Corrections;
- 7 (8) The director of the Protection and Advocacy Division of the Department of
8 Public Advocacy;
- 9 (9) One mental health court judge, recommended by the Department of Specialty
10 Courts within the Administrative Office of the Courts;
- 11 (10) One representative from the Homeless and Housing Coalition of Kentucky;
12 and
- 13 (11) One board-certified psychiatric pharmacist recommended by the Kentucky
14 Pharmacists Association.

15 ➔Section 4. The task force shall meet monthly during the 2021 Interim of the
16 General Assembly. The task force shall submit findings and recommendations to the
17 Legislative Research Commission for referral to the appropriate committee or committees
18 by December 1, 2021.

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