

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to
2 establish a work group to create written recommendations for distribution throughout
3 Kentucky for individuals who suffer from substance use disorder in order to reduce the
4 barriers the individuals experience when attempting to access opioid disorder treatment
5 programs.

6 WHEREAS, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 19.7
7 million American adults battled a substance use disorder in 2017; and

8 WHEREAS, in 2017, throughout the United States an estimated 20.7 million people
9 aged 12 and older needed treatment for a substance use disorder and only four million
10 people received treatment, and

11 WHEREAS, in 2019 lethal overdoses totaled more than 1,316 across Kentucky; and

12 WHEREAS, teenagers and people with mental health disorders are more at risk for
13 drug use and addiction than other population; and

14 WHEREAS, heroin use among young adults ages eighteen to twenty-five doubled
15 in the last decade; and

16 WHEREAS, most Kentucky substance use disorder programs offer peer support,
17 case management services, life skills and job support training, vocational and academic
18 education opportunities, guarantee opportunities for employment, transportation
19 assistance, medical and psychosocial therapies, and housing supports; and

20 WHEREAS, the relapse rate for substance use disorders is estimated to be between
21 forty percent and sixty percent; and

22 WHEREAS, addiction is considered a highly treatable disease and recovery is
23 attainable; and

24 WHEREAS, of the 2.3 million people in American prisons and jails, more than
25 sixty-five percent meet the criteria for addiction;

26 NOW, THEREFORE,

27 ***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

1 ➔Section 1. The General Assembly hereby directs the Cabinet for Health and
2 Family Services to establish a work group to create written recommendations for
3 distribution throughout Kentucky for individuals who suffer from substance use disorder
4 in order to reduce the barriers the individuals experience when attempting to access
5 opioid disorder treatment programs.

6 ➔Section 2. The work group shall meet during 2021 and shall submit findings
7 and recommendations to the Legislative Research Commission for referral to the
8 appropriate committee or committees by December 1, 2021.