

1 AN ACT relating to services for persons with severe mental illness.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 205 IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *(1) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:*

6 *(a) "Severe mental illness" means someone over eighteen (18) years of age*
7 *having, within the past year, a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional*
8 *disorder that causes serious functional impairment that substantially*
9 *interferes with or limits one (1) or more major life activity;*

10 *(b) "Supported employment" means employment which matches individuals*
11 *with severe mental illness to jobs best suited for them and provides*
12 *continuous support during employment; and*

13 *(c) "Supportive housing" means integrated, community-based housing that*
14 *provides people with all rights of tenancy under state and local landlord and*
15 *tenant laws and is linked to voluntary and flexible supports and services*
16 *designed to meet individual needs and preferences.*

17 *(2) The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall submit to the federal agency*
18 *that approves waivers, waiver amendments, and plan amendments an application*
19 *for a waiver or waiver amendment or request a plan amendment designed to*
20 *provide supportive housing and supported employment services to the severely*
21 *mentally ill.*

22 *(3) Supportive housing shall include but not be limited to:*

23 *(a) Pretenancy assistance in viewing and selecting units, obtaining necessary*
24 *documents to complete housing and voucher applications, seeking*
25 *reasonable accommodation when needed, and entering into lease*
26 *agreements;*

27 *(b) Assistance with apartment setup and moving in, identifying transportation*

- 1 resources and routes, and orientation to the neighborhood;
- 2 (c) Tenancy skills support such as bill payment, housekeeping, lease
- 3 observance, and getting along with neighbors;
- 4 (d) Tenancy preservation and maintenance including assistance in obtaining
- 5 entitlement benefits, building social connections, accessing primary and
- 6 other health care, and support for voluntary compliance with treatments;
- 7 (e) Assistance in crisis planning and eviction prevention.
- 8 (4) The cabinet shall include in its waiver, waiver amendment, or request for a plan
- 9 amendment a residential option for people with severe mental illness to live until
- 10 they are able to get stabilized on medication.
- 11 (5) The cabinet shall provide an update biennially on the status of the application for
- 12 a waiver or waiver amendment or request for a plan amendment to the Interim
- 13 Joint Committee on Health and Welfare and Family Services.