

1 A RESOLUTION honoring the Laurel County Health Department for receiving the
2 Small Local Health Department of the Year award from the National Association of
3 County and City Health Officials.

4 WHEREAS, led by Executive Director Mark Hensley, the nationally accredited
5 Laurel County Health Department serves the London, Kentucky area with the mission "to
6 prevent, promote and protect the public health of its citizens by providing quality health
7 education, preventive health care and environmental services"; and

8 WHEREAS, the Laurel County Health Department provides ten essential public
9 health services: monitoring health status to identify and solve community health
10 problems; diagnosing and investigating health problems and health hazards in the
11 community; informing, educating, and empowering people about health issues;
12 mobilizing community partnerships and action to identify and solve health problems;
13 developing policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts;
14 enforcing laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety; linking people to
15 needed personal health services and assuring the provision of health care when otherwise
16 unavailable; assuring a competent public and personal health care workforce; evaluating
17 effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services;
18 and researching for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems; and

19 WHEREAS, the Laurel County Health Department has facilitated private and public
20 partnerships and worked with other health departments to create programs responding to
21 identified needs from a community assessment. The Laurel County Health in Motion
22 Coalition has operated for a decade with representatives from across the community
23 conducting the assessment, helping draft and implement the community health
24 improvement plan and evaluating its effectiveness. This has allowed the partners to share
25 staff, expertise, and funding to strengthen the capacity to provide services; and

26 WHEREAS, the top priorities in the 2018 Community Health Improvement Plan
27 were substance use and chronic disease prevention and management. The department and

1 its partners successfully applied for \$300,000 to establish collaborations to increase
2 clinical and community linkages, and the resulting initiatives assessed and planned for
3 gaps and opportunities identified in substance use and opioid prevention, treatment, and
4 recovery services. The Laurel County Health Department established a harm reduction
5 program that includes a formal and mobile syringe exchange program operated by the
6 department and by four independent health department jurisdictions. The program offers
7 also HIV and hepatitis C testing, hepatitis A vaccines, condoms, education, peer
8 counseling, and referral sources for treatment and recovery; and

9 WHEREAS, addressing the harms of addiction to the family, the Laurel County
10 Health Department has offered professional trainings on adverse child experiences to
11 build protective health factors to increase community and family resilience, has provided
12 awareness education of neonatal abstinence syndrome, and has partnered with the primary
13 neonatal provider in the area to place a community health worker with the provider to
14 work with addicted pregnant women receiving medication-assisted treatment; and

15 WHEREAS, the Laurel County Health Department has established partnerships to
16 implement chronic disease programs to tackle tobacco use and diabetes, partnered with a
17 local primary care center to address health disparities in low-income pregnant women
18 who smoke or use other tobacco products, and partnered with the Kentucky Department
19 of Public Health Diabetes Program, two federally qualified health centers, and cross-
20 jurisdiction health districts to provide a bi-directional secure referral network to connect
21 individuals to accredited diabetes self-management education and support; and

22 WHEREAS, the Laurel County Health Department has received the Local Health
23 Department of the Year award from the National Association of County and City Health
24 Officials. The award, given to just one of the 3,000 health departments competing in the
25 under-100,000 population category, was presented on July 10, 2019, at the association's
26 annual conference in Orlando, Florida. With its many community partnerships and
27 programs, the Laurel County Health Department personified the conference's "Improving

1 Public and Private Partnerships" theme;

2 NOW, THEREFORE,

3 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
4 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

5 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives salute the Laurel
6 County Health Department for receiving the Small Local Health Department of the Year
7 award and for its exemplary work establishing state and national standards of excellence
8 in health care.

9 ➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in
10 honor of the Laurel County Health Department.

11 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
12 copy of this Resolution to Representative Robert Goforth for delivery.