



District of Columbia Sentencing and Criminal Code Revision Commission DCSC (FZ)

MISSION

The mission of the District of Columbia Sentencing Commission is to implement, monitor, and support the District's voluntary sentencing guidelines, to promote fair and consistent sentencing policies, to increase public understanding of sentencing policies and practices, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the guidelines system in order to recommend changes based on actual sentencing and corrections practice and research.

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

The Commission advises the District of Columbia on policy matters related to criminal law, sentencing and corrections policy. The Sentencing and Criminal Code Revision Commission Amendment Act of 2007 established a permanent voluntary felony sentencing guidelines and requires the Commission to monitor and make adjustments as needed to promote sentencing policies that limit unwarranted disparity while allowing adequate judicial discretion and proportionality. The sentencing guidelines provide recommended sentences that enhance fairness so that offenders, victims, the community, and all parties will understand the sentence, and sentences will be both more predictable and consistent. The commission provides analysis of sentencing trends and guideline compliance to the public and its representatives to assist in identifying sentencing patterns for felony convictions. In addition, the Advisory Commission on Sentencing Amendment Act of 2006 requires the Commission to conduct a multi-year study of the DC Criminal Code reform, including analysis of current criminal statutes and developing recommendations for the reorganization and reformulation of the District's Criminal Code.

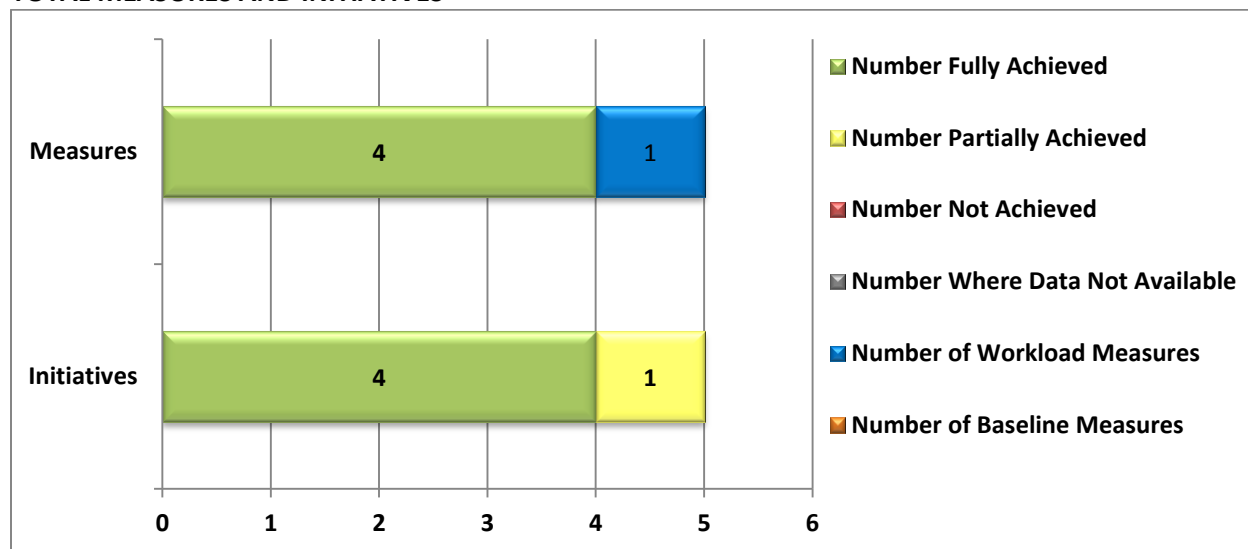
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ The Commission conducted a Needs Assessment to determine the most efficient and cost effective approach to modify the agency's current data system to ensure continued data transfer capabilities with the DC Superior Court's new IJIS Outbound 12.1 system which will become operational in FY 2013. After reviewing the results of the Needs Assessment, the Commission decided to develop a new data system rather than modify the current system given the complexity of sentencing related data. A RFP was issued in late FY 2012 and development of the new data system will begin in early FY 2013.
- ✓ The Agency's webpage was redesigned to include both a General Information Section and a Practitioner Section. The General Information Section provides an overview of the Commission's and the Sentencing Guidelines, while the Practitioner Section provides information related to changes to the Guidelines and specific Guideline application issues, such as special sentencing enhancements or rules. By redesigning the webpage information by user type, the number of webpage hits has increased from 854 in FY 2011 to 4,495 in FY 2012.
- ✓ The agency automated the process by which it receives criminal history information from CSOSA, which is used to calculate judicial compliance with the Guidelines, through the development of a Microsoft InfoPath "Smart Form." CSOSA officers enter prior criminal convictions and the form automatically calculates the offender's criminal history score and transmits it electronically to the Commission. The automated form reduces mathematical calculation errors and eliminates the need for data entry by staff.

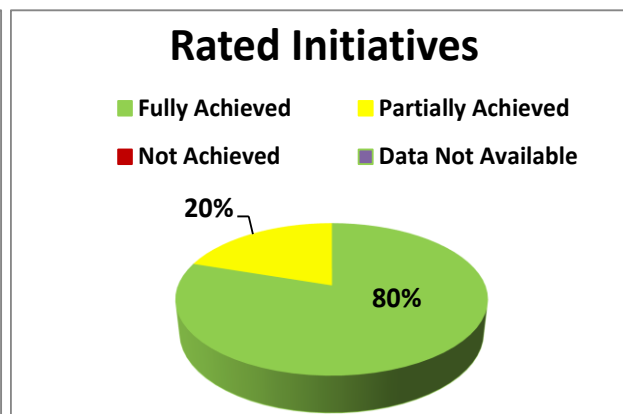
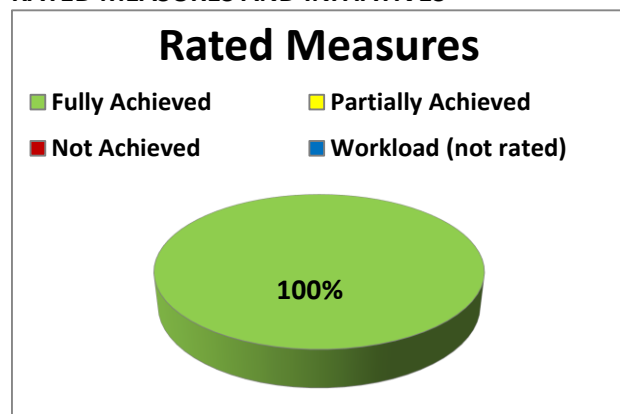


OVERALL OF AGENCY PERFORMANCE

TOTAL MEASURES AND INITIATIVES



RATED MEASURES AND INITIATIVES



Note: Workload and Baseline Measurements are not included

Default KPI Rating:	
$\geq 100\%$	Fully Achieved
75 - 99.99%	Partially Achieved
$< 75\%$	Not Achieved



Performance Initiatives – Assessment Details

Performance Assessment Key:

 Fully achieved  Partially achieved  Not achieved  Data not reported

Agency Management

OBJECTIVE 1: Promulgate the accurate, timely, and effective use of the sentencing guidelines in every felony case.

INITIATIVE 1.1: Expanding resources available through the Commission’s Website.

Fully Achieved. The agency website was reformatted to provide user-based information for two primary audiences: General Public and Criminal Justice Practitioners. Feedback on previous modifications to the website indicated that practitioners sought information on the application of the guidelines for various issues including calculation of criminal history, enhancements, and special sentencing rules, as well as notification of changes to the guidelines. The webpage was modified to include: (1) Sentencing Guidelines Alerts, (2) resources for application of the guidelines, and (3) special sentencing rules. In addition, the webpage has information on the purpose, history and structure of the sentencing guidelines for the general public. The practitioners section of the webpage provides information related to the most common types of guidelines application questions from our criminal justice partners and frees up staff time to address the more complex guideline questions, thus improving agency response time. This initiative has been very effective since agency web hits increased from 854 in 2001 to 4,494 in 2012.

INITIATIVE 1.2: Develop Semi-Annually Issues Papers.

Fully Achieved. In the previous year the agency developed and distributed quarterly Issue Papers that focused on various sentencing issues. The Issue Papers were policy oriented and did not primarily data driven. Given the improvements in the agency’s sentencing related data, it was decided to have future Issue Papers include more robust data analysis focusing on trend analysis, causal relationships and policy outcome analysis. In order to undertake the degree of data analysis required, Issue Papers would be developed and distributed semi-annually. In FY 12, the first Issue Paper focused on why departures from the recommended guideline sentence are important and necessary, using departure data to describe how and when a non-compliant guideline sentence is appropriate. The second Issue Paper compared the consistency and proportionality of probation sentences which are not governed by the Guidelines to incarceration sentences which are governed by the guideline. The data driven comparison identified areas of similarity, as well as areas where differences were identified. Using sentencing data to evaluate the impact of legislative and policy changes enables the Commission to determine if the intended result was achieved and any unintended consequences that may have occurred.



OBJECTIVE 2: Promulgate compliance with the guidelines in at least 85% of all felony cases.

INITIATIVE 2.1: Redesign and Implement a Database System to retain compatibility with DCSC's IJIS Outbound 12.1.

Fully Achieved. The D.C. Superior Court is changing manner in which it shares data with partner criminal justice agencies, including the D.C. Sentencing Commission. The agency is currently receiving filtered data from the court, however, once the court's new IJIS outbound 12.1 is implement, all data will be forwarded to recipient agencies without any filtering. This change will require significant modifications to the agency's current data system. The Commission decided to contract for a Needs Assessment to determine whether it would be more cost effective and efficient to: (a) modify the current data system, (b) buy an "off-the-shelf" data system, or (c) develop a new data system. The Needs Assessment began in January, 2012 and was completed in late April, 2012. The Needs Assessment included a review of the agency's business needs, the IJIS 12.1 requirements, operational analysis of the current data system, level of risk and projected cost. After reviewing an analysis of the three options, the Commission voted to develop a new data system based on the complexity of sentencing related data and projected costs. A RFP was developed over the summer and released for bid in September. In early 2013, a vendor will be selected and a contract issued to begin development of the new data system which is expected to be completed by December 2013.

INITIATIVE 2.2: Restructure Process for Obtaining Criminal History Information.

Fully Achieved. The Sentencing Commission receives offender criminal history information used to calculate judicial compliance with the Guidelines from CSOSA. Historically, this criminal history information is provided on the Sentencing Guideline Form completed by CSOSA officers and emailed to the agency that then enters the data manually into the sentencing database. This process is both staff time intensive and has the potential for mathematical and data entry errors which impact data quality. This initiative automated the calculation and submission of the criminal history score prepared by CSOSA. Utilizing a Microsoft "Smart Form" developed by the Commission, CSOSA enters prior conviction information and the form automatically calculates the criminal history score by applying the appropriate guideline weights and rules. The form is then transmitted electronically to the Commission and imported into the agency's database. This initiative resulted in improved data quality, increased timeliness of data submission and reduced staff time required for manual data entry.

OBJECTIVE 3: Analyze the District of Columbia's current criminal code and propose reforms in the criminal code to create a uniform and coherent body of criminal law in the District of Columbia.

INITIATIVE 3.1: : Develop Recommendations for Standard Language and Section Structure for the DC Criminal Code

Partially Achieved given that it is a multi-year initiative with a projected completion date of September 28, 2014. Standardization of language and formatting of the criminal code was begun in FY 12; however, progress was limited since the Project Director retired in December 2011. The Commission immediately embarked on a very long and difficult search for a new Project Director given the specific skills and experience required for the position, resulting in this position just being filled in October 2012. Additionally, in FY 12 there was no funding available for the staff necessary to undertake a project of this magnitude. The agency's FY 13 budget provided funding for a full time project director and four staff designated to the Code Revision Project, which will now enable the project to meet the projected completion date of September 2014.



Key Performance Indicators - Details

Performance Assessment Key:

● Fully achieved
 ● Partially achieved
 ● Not achieved
 ● Data not reported
 ● Workload Measure

	KPI	Measure Name	FY 2011 YE Actual	FY 2012 YE Target	FY 2012 YE Revised Target	FY 2012 YE Actual	FY 2012 YE Rating	Budget Program
	● 1.1	Development of Issue Papers	3	2		2	Workload Measure	DATA COLLECTION (AIP)
	● 2.1	Judicial Compliance Rate	97.4%	97%		98.59%	101.64%	Not Provided
	● 2.2	Analysis Departures From the Guidelines	0	50		78.38%	156.76%	MANAGEMENT
	● 2.3	Agency Web Page Use	854	1,100		4,494	408.55%	MANAGEMENT
	● 2.4	Guideline Information Provided	112	95		98.62%	103.82%	DATA COLLECTION (AIP)