



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.

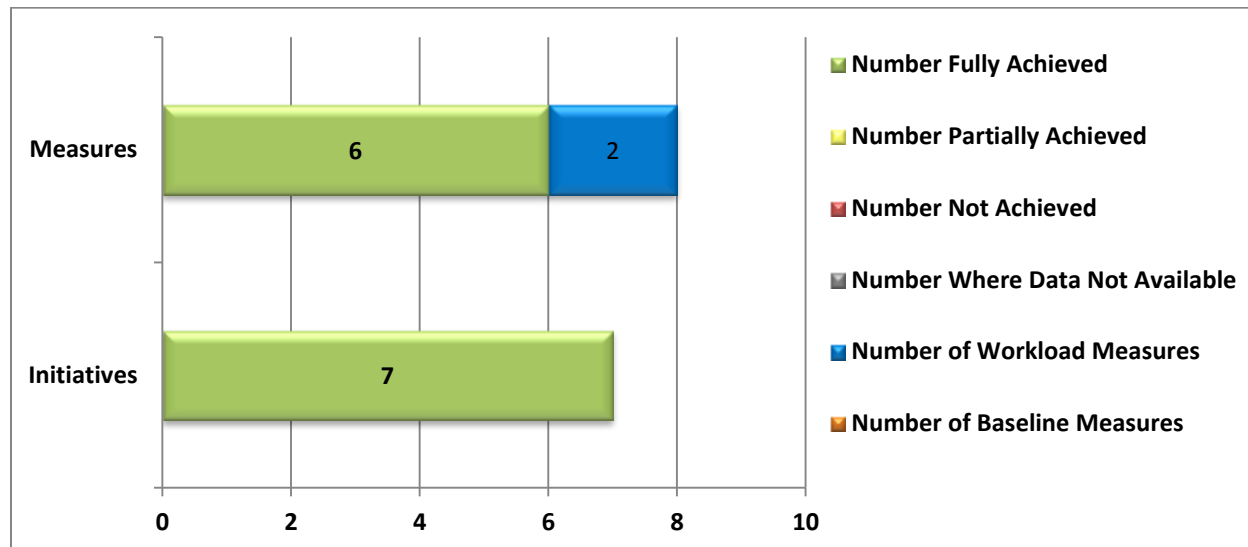
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ Awarded a fixed price contract for development of the agency's new IJIS 12.1 compatible data system.
- ✓ Completed the design and two of the four required data system releases.
- ✓ Drafted General Provisions for the DC Criminal Code.

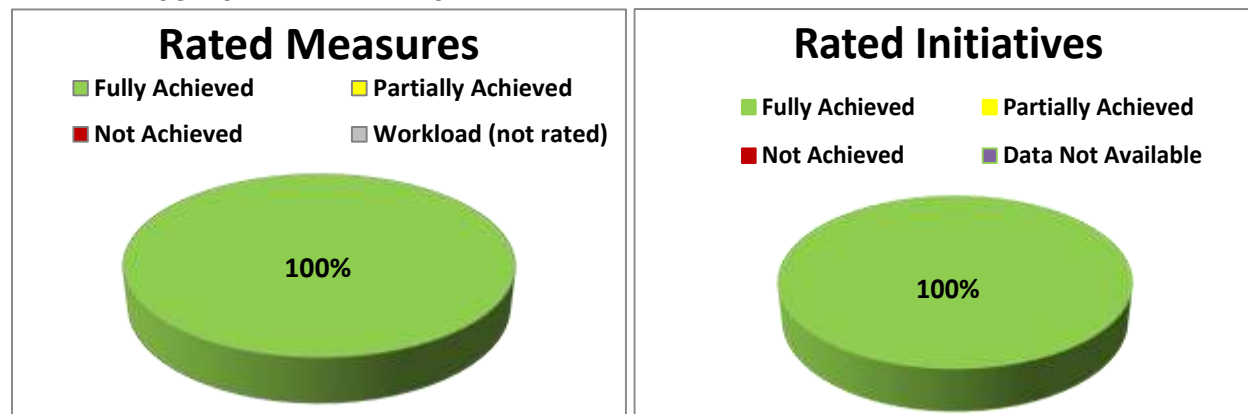


OVERVIEW AGENCY PERFORMANCE

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: Develop a Training Component for the Agency's Website.


-  **Initiative was fully achieved.** The agency expanded the Training Section of its website to include PowerPoint presentations focused on (1) Basics of how the Guidelines function; (2) Calculation of criminal history score; and (3) Special enhancements and sentencing rules. These training tools were developed to address the most frequent guideline related questions directed towards the Commission.

INITIATIVE 1.2: Develop Semi-Annually Issues Papers.


-  **Initiative was fully achieved.** The Commission developed two issue papers during FY13 that focused on the effectiveness of the District's Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines. The first Issue paper examined the distribution of sentences imposed under the Guidelines, indicating that the majority of sentences fall within the bottom 25% of each grid cell, especially drug sentences. The second Issue Paper examined how mandatory minimum sentences are incorporated within the Guidelines to support consistency and certainty in sentencing.

OBJECTIVE 2: Promulgate compliance with the guidelines in at least 93% of all felony cases.

INITIATIVE 2.1: Refine the process for obtaining information related to for judicial departures from the recommended Guideline Sentence.

-  **Initiative was fully achieved.** A new analysis was implemented in 2013 to categorize departures from the Guidelines by Compliant Departure or Non-Compliant departure. Compliant departures are defined as sentences outside the grid box due to a specific guideline provision. A non-compliant departure is defined as a sentence outside the grid box for which no reason was provided by the court. In FY 13, compliant departures accounted for 95.06% of the total number of departures.

INITIATIVE 2.2: Develop and Implement a Data System to ensure data transfer compatibility with DCSC's IJIS Outbound 12.1

-  **Initiative fully achieved.** The agency entered into a fixed price contract with Blue Print Consulting in December 2012 to build a data system that would be compatible with IJIS 12.1 data. The project was divided into four phases, with two phases being completed in FY 13 and two phases in FY 14. Phase One included the development of the technical and business needs of the agency. Phase Two involved implementing the technical process for the new data system to consume the 12.1 data. Both phases were completed and functional by the end of FY 13.



INITIATIVE 2.3: Restructure Process for Obtaining Criminal History Information.

This initiative was fully achieved. As part of the development of the agency's new data system, an XML interface was designed to allow for the electronic transfer from CSOSA to the Commission of criminal history data currently contained on the InfoPath form directly into the agency's database. This interface reduces manual staff time and increases accuracy and completeness of the criminal history information received from CSOSA. The interface was designed, implemented and tested by September 30, 2013.

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: Fully staff the Criminal Code Revision Project

Initiative fully achieved. A Project Director for the Criminal Code Revision Project was hired by early November 2012. Under the direction of the Project Director applicants were screened and interviews were conducted in December 2012 and January 2013. By the end of January 2013, two attorney advisors and two law clerks had been hired, resulting in a full staff of five employees assigned to the Criminal Code Revision Project.

INITIATIVE 3.2: Prioritize and draft code revision recommendations for specific sections of the DC Criminal Code.

Initiative fully achieved. A Project Management Plan was developed and submitted to the Council in April 2013. The plan priorities the sections of the code to be reformed and also includes a timeline for the revisions to various sections of the DC Criminal Code. The initial focus will be on developing the General Provisions, then property crimes, drug offenses and weapons offenses. The first Code Revision Report to the Council was submitted on September 26, 2013 detailing the reform efforts of the project to date.



Key Performance Indicators - Details

Performance Assessment Key:

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

	KPI	Measure Name	FY 2012 YE Actual	FY 2013 YE Target	FY 2013 YE Revised Target	FY 2013 YE Actual	FY 2013 YE Rating	Budget Program
●	1.1	Development of Issue Papers	2	Target Not Required		2	Workload Measure Not Rated	DATA COLLECTION (AIP)
●	1.2	Agency Web Page Use	4,494	4,575		7,772	169.88%	MANAGEMENT
●	2.1	Judicial Compliance Rate	98	96		96.68%	100.71%	DATA COLLECTION (AIP)
●	2.2	Analysis Departures From the Guidelines	0	96		95.06%	99.02%	DATA COLLECTION (AIP)
●	2.3	Guideline Information Provided	98	98		99.09%	101.11%	MANAGEMENT
●	3.1	Develop a Code Revision Management Plan	0	Target Not Required		1	Workload Measure Not Rated	MANAGEMENT
●	3.2	Hours of Code Revision Research	0	2,800		3,210	114.64%	DATA COLLECTION (AIP)
●	3.3	Number of Code Revision Memos Prepared	0	2		29	1450%	MANAGEMENT