Agency District of Columbia Sentencing Commission Agency Code FZ0

**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.

Fiscal Year 2017

#### 2017 Strategic Objectives

| Objective<br>Number | Strategic Objective  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1                   | Provide fair, consistent and transparent sentencing policy for felony sentences imposed in the District of Columbia to ensure that similar offenders who are convicted of similar offenses receive similar sentences.                  |
| 2                   | Provide effective education and support to improve understanding and awareness of the District's Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines to ensure citizens of the District have a clear understanding of the sentencing process.              |
| 3                   | Provide high quality analysis and evaluation of sentencing data to inform the development of effective sentencing policy in the District of Columbia that increases public safety while decreasing unwarrented disparity in sentences. |
| 4                   | Create and maintain a highly efficient, transparent and responsive District government.**  |

### 2017 Key Performance Indicators

| Measure   | New<br>Measure/<br>Benchmark<br>Year | Frequency<br>of<br>Reporting | Add Data<br>Fields (if<br>applicable) | FY 2014<br>Actual              | FY 2015<br>Target              | FY 2015<br>Actual              | FY 2016<br>Target              | FY 2016<br>Actual              | FY 2017<br>Target              |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 - Provide fair, consi<br>similar offenders who  |                                      |                              |                                       |                                |                                |                                |                                | Columbia to                    | ensure that                    |
| Percentage of<br>Compliant Guideline<br>Sentences   |                                      | Quarterly                    |                                       | 98.2%                          | 94%                            | 97.7%                          | 96%                            | 95.8%                          | 96.5%                          |
| Compliant In-The-Box<br>Sentences Imposed   |                                      | Quarterly                    |                                       | 86.7%                          | 85%                            | 85.8%                          | 86.5%                          | 89.3%                          | 86.5%                          |
| Compliant Departures  |                                      | Quarterly                    |                                       | 96.2%                          | 95%                            | 91.9%                          | 92.5%                          | 88.7%                          | 93%                            |
| 2 - Provide effective e<br>Guidelines to ensure   |                                      |                              |                                       |                                |                                |                                |                                |                                | ng                             |
| Effective Guideline<br>Trainings  | ~                                    | Quarterly                    |                                       | Not<br>available               | Not<br>available               | Not<br>available               | Not<br>available               | New<br>Measure                 | 80%                            |
| Guideline Questions<br>Answered   |                                      | Quarterly                    |                                       | 99.3%                          | 97%                            | 99.6%                          | 99.7%                          | 99.5%                          | 99.5%                          |
| 3 - Provide high quali<br>District of Columbia t  |                                      |                              |                                       |                                |                                |                                |                                |                                | icy in the                     |
| GRID/GSS tickets<br>resolved within 14 days   | ~                                    | Quarterly                    |                                       | Not<br>available               | Not<br>available               | Not<br>available               | Not<br>available               | New<br>Measure                 | 60%                            |
| Data Request Response<br>Time   | ~                                    | Quarterly                    |                                       | Not<br>available               | Not<br>available               | Not<br>available               | Not<br>available               | New<br>Measure                 | 75%                            |
| 4 - Create and mainta   | in a highly                          | efficient, tı                | ransparent                            | and responsi                   | ve District gov                | /ernment.**                    | (9 Measures                    | )                              |                                |
| Contracts/Procurement-<br>Expendable Budget<br>spent on Certified<br>Business Enterprises | ~                                    |                              |                                       | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 |
| Contracts/Procurement-<br>Contracts lapsed into<br>retroactive status                     | <b>~</b>                             |                              |                                       | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 |
| Budget- Local funds<br>unspent  | <b>~</b>                             | Annually                     |                                       | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 |
| Budget- Federal Funds<br>returned   | ~                                    |                              |                                       | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 |
| Customer Service-<br>Meeting Service Level<br>Agreements                                  | <b>Y</b>                             |                              |                                       | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 |
| Human Resources-<br>Vacancy Rate  | ~                                    |                              |                                       | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 |

| Human Resources-<br>Employee District<br>residency                    | v | Annually | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 |
|---|---|----------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Human Resources-<br>Employee Onboard<br>Time                          | ~ | Annually | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 |
| Performance<br>Management-<br>Employee Performance<br>Plan Completion | • | Annually | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 | Forthcoming<br>October<br>2017 |

# 2017 Operations

| Operations<br>Header                  | Operations Title   | Operations Description  | Type of<br>Operations |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------|
|                                       |  | transparent sentencing policy for felony sentences imposed in the District of Columbia to $\epsilon$ convicted of similar offenses receive similar sentences. (2 Activities)  | ensure                |
| SENTENCING<br>GUIDELINE<br>MONITORING | Review and Verify<br>All Felony<br>Sentences.                            | Review and verify each felony sentence imposed by the D.C. Superior Court for accuracy and completeness. Once the verification process is completed, calculate judicial compliance with the recommended guideline sentence in an accurate and timely manner.  | Daily<br>Service      |
| SENTENCING<br>GUIDELINE<br>MONITORING | Identify Irregularities and Inconsistencies in Felony Sentences Imposed. | Review sentencing data received from the D.C. Superior Court to identify data quality issues to be resolved, departures from the recommend guideline sentence, and emerging sentencing trends that may require review by the Commission and potential policy modifications  | Daily<br>Service      |
|                                       |  | and support to improve understanding and awareness of the District's Voluntary Sentencing the District have a clear understanding of the sentencing process. (2 Activities)   | ng                    |
| SENTENCING<br>GUIDELINES<br>TRAINING  | Maintain and<br>Update Agency<br>Website.                                | Update the agency's website with "Guideline Alerts" to ensure the public and criminal justice community are notified of changes to sentencing policy or practices under the sentencing guidelines. On a monthly basis, update training and other guideline related materials to ensure public access to accurate and timely information about sentencing in the District of Columbia. | Daily<br>Service      |
| SENTENCING<br>GUIDELINES<br>TRAINING  | Provide<br>Sentencing<br>Guideline Training.                             | Provide Sentencing Guideline training to criminal justice professional that will increase their understanding of the guidelines and ensure proper application of the guidelines thus reducing potential sentencing errors.  | Daily<br>Service      |
|                                       |  | is and evaluation of sentencing data to inform the development of effective sentencing poli<br>ases public safety while decreasing unwarrented disparity in sentences. (2 Activities)   | cy in the             |
| SENTENCING<br>GUIDELINE<br>MONITORING | Monitor and<br>Maintain the GRID<br>System.                              | Monitor and maintain the data analysis module of the agency's data system (GRID) used to identify and evaluate sentencing trends throughout the year to inform the development of effective sentencing policy for the District.   | Daily<br>Service      |
| POLICY<br>REPORTS<br>AND<br>PROPOSALS | Respond to Data<br>Requests.   | Effectively respond to data requests from legislators, criminal justice professionals, and the public by providing accurate and timely sentencing information.  | Daily<br>Service      |

## 2017 Workload Measures

| Measure  | New<br>Measure/<br>Benchmark<br>Year | Add Historical and<br>Target Data (FY17) | Numerator Title                        | Units                     | Frequency of<br>Reporting | FY<br>2014 | FY<br>2015 | FY 2016<br>Actual |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1 - Identify Irregularities a                        | nd Inconsis                          | tencies in Felony Se                     | entences Imposed. (                    | 1 Measure)                |                           |            |            |                   |
| Sealed Cases   |                                      |  | # of Cases Sealed                      | Sealed Cases              | Quarterly                 | 2270       | 3441       | 1690              |
| 1 - Review and Verify All Fe                         | elony Senter                         | ices. (5 Measures)                       |  |                           |                           |            |            |                   |
| Number of Felony Counts<br>Sentenced                 |                                      |  | # Felony Counts<br>Sentenced           | Sentences                 | Quarterly                 | 2932       | 2611       | 2388              |
| Number of CSOSA Criminal<br>History Scores Submitted |                                      |  | # Criminal History<br>Scores Received  | Criminal<br>History Score | Quarterly                 | 2591       | 2730       | 1656              |
| Number of Felony Cases<br>Sentenced                  |                                      |  | # of Felony Cases<br>Sentenced         | Cases                     | Quarterly                 | 2056       | 1891       | 1843              |
| Number of Departure Letters<br>Sent                  |                                      |  | Number of<br>Departure Letters<br>Sent | Departure<br>Letters      | Quarterly                 | 136        | 96         | 60                |
| Departure Letter Responses                           |                                      |  | Departure Letter<br>Responses          | Responses                 | Quarterly                 | 71.32      | 84.4       | 71.67%            |

| Agency Website Hits                                  |              |                   | # Website Hits                    | Website Hits     | Quarterly         | 10681 | 14050 | 2342 |
|--|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|------|
| 2 - Provide Sentencing Guid                          | deline Train | ing. (2 Measures) |                                   |                  |                   |       |       |      |
| Number of Sentencing<br>Guideline Trainings Provided |              |                   | # of Guideline<br>Trainings       | Trainings        | Quarterly         | 6     | 10    | 20   |
| Agency Website Updates<br>Completed                  |              |                   | # Website Updates<br>Completed    | Updates          | Quarterly         | 57    | 38    | 42   |
| 3 - Monitor and Maintain th                          | e GRID Syst  | tem. (2 Measures) |                                   |                  |                   |       |       |      |
| # Hours required to complete data requests.          |              |                   | # Hours to complete data requests | Hours            | Semi-<br>Annually | 510   | 525   | 826  |
| GRID Tickets Entered                                 |              |                   | Grid Tickets                      | GRID Tickets     | Quarterly         | 202   | 121   | 67   |
| 3 - Respond to Data Reques                           | ts. (1 Meas  | sure)             |                                   |                  |                   |       |       |      |
| Data Requests Received                               |              |                   | # Data Requests                   | Data<br>Requests | Quarterly         | 32    | 49    | 47   |

## 2017 Strategic Initiatives

| Strategic<br>Initiative Title  | Strategic Initiative Description  | Proposed<br>Completion<br>Date |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| POLICY REF   | PORTS AND PROPOSALS (3 Strategic initiative-operation links)  |                                |
| Idnetify the neceessary componetts to be included in a Continuity of Operations Plan | COOP planning is an effort to assure that capability exists to continue essential or functions that are mission critical across a wide range of potential emergencies. Given the time and resources the agency has expended over the past three years in developing a comprehensive and complex data system, developing a COOP plan is essential to ensure continued performance of essential functions during an emergency, protect records and data files, reduce or mitigate disruptions to operations and achieve a timely and orderly recovery for an emergency situation. This initiative will focus on identifying the necessary components to be included in a comprehensive COOP plan and will serve as the basis for the agency's development of a COOP plan. | 09-30-2017                     |
| Provide<br>Sentencing<br>Data Sets on<br>WebSite                                     | The agency will develop and post on its website, at a minimum, two data sets that include: (1) all felony counts sentenced between 2010 - 2016, and (2) all homicide counts sentenced between 2010 and 2016. These data sets will include both demographic and sentencing related data elements that will enable the public, students, and criminal justice professional to easily access and conduct their own analysis on this data increasing transparency, efficiency and public awareness of sentencing trends within the District of Columbia. This initiative will begin October1, 2016 and be completed by April 3, 2017.   | 04-03-2017                     |
| Evaluation<br>Study  | Phase II and III of the sentencing guideline evaluation study which analyzes sentencing patterns pre-and-post guideline implementation will be completed by November 30, 2016. The Guideline Evaluation Study, which focuses on the effectiveness of the guidelines in achieving their stated goals of certainty, consistency, and adequacy of punishment in sentencing will be completed and distributed in February 2017. The study will inform citizens, policy makers and criminal justice professionals of the impact the implementation of the guidelines have had on sentencing in the District.   | 02-06-2017                     |
| SENTENCIN  | G GUIDELINE MONITORING (4 Strategic initiative-operation links)   |                                |
| Judical<br>Compliance<br>Verification<br>Procedure                                   | Develop and implement a standardized manual review process for sentences initially designated as "non-compliant" by the GRID system. All sentences initially identified as non-compliant will be reviewed for data quality issues and the data will be verified using JUSTIS within four weeks. This will enable departure letters to be sent to the court within 60 days of sentencing, with the goal of increasing departure letter response rates by 10%, and enable the agency to achieve its projected 96.5% compliant Guideline sentences. This initiative will begin on October 1, 2016 and be completed by September 30, 2017.  | 09-30-2017                     |
| 11(c)1(c)<br>Pleas   | The Guidelines classifies certain sentences imposed outside the recommended guideline sentence range as "compliant departures" due to special sentencing rules or $11(c)(1)(c)$ pleas, which represent a sentence that has been agreed upon by both the prosecutor and defense counsel. Although these sentences are outside the recommended guideline sentence, they represent a specific type of sentence given that both parties are in agreement. The percentage of compliant departures that are classified as $11(c)(1)(c)$ will be calculated each quarter to identify the impact they have on the total number of compliant departure sentences imposed under the guidelines and to identify any sentencing trends that may occur.                              | 09-30-2017                     |
| Evaluation<br>Study  | Phase II and III of the sentencing guideline evaluation study which analyzes sentencing patterns pre-and-post guideline implementation will be completed by November 30, 2016. The Guideline Evaluation Study, which focuses on the effectiveness of the guidelines in achieving their stated goals of certainty, consistency, and adequacy of punishment in sentencing will be completed and distributed in February 2017. The study will inform citizens, policy makers and criminal justice professionals of the impact the implementation of the guidelines have had on sentencing in the District.   | 02-06-2017                     |

| Idnetify the neceessary componetts to be included in a Continuity of Operations Plan | COOP planning is an effort to assure that capability exists to continue essential or functions that are mission critical across a wide range of potential emergencies. Given the time and resources the agency has expended over the past three years in developing a comprehensive and complex data system, developing a COOP plan is essential to ensure continued performance of essential functions during an emergency, protect records and data files, reduce or mitigate disruptions to operations and achieve a timely and orderly recovery for an emergency situation. This initiative will focus on identifying the necessary components to be included in a comprehensive COOP plan and will serve as the basis for the agency's development of a COOP plan. | 09-30-2017 |
|--|---|------------|
| SENTENCIN  | G GUIDELINES TRAINING (2 Strategic initiative-operation links)  |            |
| Improve<br>Effectiveness<br>of Guideline<br>Training                                 | Develop a Guideline Training Evaluation Form to be distributed and completed by participants at the end of each training that identifies the most and least effective areas of training by December 30, 2016. Data from the evaluation form will be recorded an analyzed by training staff quarterly and changes to the training syllabus will be implemented to achieve an effectiveness rating of 80% or higher by September 30, 2017.  | 09-29-2017 |
| Quideline<br>Training<br>FAQ's   | This initiative will develop a FAQ section for the Guideline Training portion of the agency's website and include the most frequent questions addressed during training sessions. Expanding the training portion of the website to include the FAQ's will complement the website trainings available and provide responses in a very quick and easy to access format to commonly asked questions, while increasing both citizens and criminal justice professionals understanding and applications of the Sentencing Guidelines. An initial set of FAQ's will be developed and posted by December 30, 2016, with updates to the list completed quarterly as needed.   | 01-30-2017 |

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