

Comprehensive Review Objectives and Principles

MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS & DEVELOPMENT DRAFT December 21, 2023

Objectives

Because of the comprehensive review:

1. The public and Commission are confident that the review process was transparent, inclusive, and thoughtfully executed.
2. Practitioners find the Guidelines are easier to understand and use.
3. The presumptive sentences for offenses are proportionate and fair.
4. Relative to the current Guidelines, the revised Guidelines contribute to:
 - Improved public safety.
 - More consistent sentencing.
 - Decreased disparities.

Principles

Overarching principles to guide everything from public engagement, to research, to commissioner interactions throughout the project:

Principles to guide research activities

- Data sources
 - Be open to refining original data set if questions arise.
 - Seek broadly sourced and reviewed research and data.
 - Recognize data challenges: bias, occasional lack of complete and/or accurate data.
 - Draw deeply from actual MN court system data where possible rather than relying on theoretical models.
- Applicability
 - Make data easy to understand and apply.
 - Use data to examine racial impact of potential policy decisions.

Principles to guide commissioner interactions

- Preparation
 - Be thoroughly prepared for meetings.
 - Seek a common understanding of what terms and phrases mean.
- Mindset
 - Balance philosophical approaches with achievable outcomes.
 - Do right by *all* Minnesotans rather than just your constituency.
 - Probe conventional wisdoms.
- Engagement
 - Assume good intentions.

- Avoid dogmatic or triggering language.
- Listen to thoughtfully consider diverse opinions, experiences, and backgrounds.
- Be willing to reevaluate strongly held views when circumstances justify doing so.
- Decision-making
 - Strive to build agreement rather than “win” with simple majority votes.
 - Be respectful through disagreements.
 - Be informed by “best” and other successful practices.

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