

Comprehensive Review Objectives and Principles

DRAFT December 6, 2023

Objectives

The outcomes we hope to achieve because of the comprehensive review:

1. The public and Commission are confident that the review process was transparent, inclusive, and thoughtfully executed.
2. The Guidelines are easier for practitioners to understand and use.
3. The Guidelines lead to increased public safety.
4. The Guidelines lead to more consistent sentencing and reduce the rate of sentencing departures.
5. The presumptive sentences for offenses are proportionate and fair.
6. The Guidelines lead to increased public safety, The Guidelines and decreased avoid disparities in incarceration sentencing outcomes.

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Principles

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

Principles to guide the comprehensive review process

- Use public input to guide review process.
- Recognize bias.

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 the occasional lack of complete and/or accurate data. (E.g. departure reports.)
 - Draw deeply from actual MN court system data where possible rather than relying on theoretical models.
- Applicability
 - Make data easy to understand and apply.
 - Include an examination of racial impact with all (policy) decisions.

Principles to guide commissioner interactions

- Preparation
 - Be thoroughly prepared for meetings.
 - Set a common understanding of what terms and phrases mean (such as “public safety”).
- 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 dogma (and triggering) language.
 - Listen to value diverse opinions, experiences, and backgrounds.
 - Be willing to reevaluate strongly held views when circumstances justify doing so.
- Decision-making
 - Strive to build agreements rather than “win” with simple majority votes.
 - Be respectful through disagreements.
 - Be informed by “best” and other successful practices.

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