



# District of Columbia Sentencing Commission

441 4th St, NW, Suite 430 South, Washington, DC 20001

Telephone (202) 727-8822 Fax (202) 727-7929

## MINUTES OF FULL COMMISSION MEETING

October 18, 2016

One Judiciary Square, Suite 430S, Washington, DC 20001

### **Voting Members in Attendance:**

Frederick Weisberg

William Martin

Laura Hankins

Cedric Hendricks

Renata Cooper

Julie Samuels

Molly Gill

### **Non-Voting Members in Attendance:**

Stephen Husk

Michael Anzallo

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Barbara Souvey

Linden Fry

LaToya Wesley

Mia Hebb

Matthew Graham

- I. Chairman Weisberg called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.
- II. The minutes from September 20, 2016 were reviewed, amended and approved after a quorum had been reached.
- III. FY 16 Data Request Report –Informational Item, Barbara Tombs-Souvey.

**Data Request:** Barbara Souvey briefly gave an overview of the Data Request Report for FY 2016. Ms. Souvey reported to the Commission that the staff received a variety of requests from different sources. Staff spent a total of 555 hours responding to data requests. Ms. Souvey commended LaToya Wesley and Matthew Graham for their hard work.

- IV. Overview of Guideline Evaluation Study Key Findings – Informational Item, Barbara Tombs-Souvey

**Guideline Evaluation Study Key Findings:** Barbara Souvey informed the Commission that a complete draft of the Evaluation Study will be distributed in November 2016, for Commission members review.

Ms. Souvey gave a presentation highlighting the key findings from the Evaluation Study. The presentation included:

#### Comparison of Pre-Guidelines and Guidelines Sentencing Practices

- Changes in demographics and offenses
- Changes in types of sentences
- Changes in lengths of sentences

#### Evaluation of Sentencing Under the Guidelines

Have Guidelines achieved the statutory goals of:

- Consistency
- Certainty
- Adequacy of Punishment

Ms. Souvey stated that the Evaluation Study analyzed two sets of Pre-Guidelines data:

#### Pre-Guidelines Indeterminate Data: 1999-2002

- Sentence range – minimum and maximum sentenced imposed
- Parole Authority decided actual release date
- Length of stay difficult to determine

#### Pre-Guidelines Determinate Data: 2000-2002

- Sentence imposed was for a specific number of months
- Guidelines were not in place
- Offender was released after serving sentence imposed

The datasets include the sentence type (prison, split or probation) and the overall sentence length. Ms. Souvey stated that the datasets from 2010-2015 were used to analyze sentencing under the Guidelines due to data quality issues present with the 2006-2010 Guideline data. The presentation included an overview of the following analyses:

#### Pre-Guidelines and Guidelines findings:

- Demographic Comparison
- Offense Category Comparison
- Pre-Guidelines Indeterminate
- Pre-Guidelines Determinate

#### Voluntary Guidelines Findings 2010-2015:

- Offenders, Cases Counts Sentenced under the Guidelines
- Offender Demographics
- Offense Type by Sentenced by Year
- Sentence Type
- Sentence Lengths
- Statutory and Mandatory Minimum Sentences
- Sentences for Sex Offenses
- Sentence for AWIK

Ms. Souvey asked the Commission members if there were any questions or concerns regarding the information included in the presentation. A Commission member recommended adding a footnote to state while we can measure sentence imposed we are unable to measure the actual length of stay.

V. Schedule Next Meeting – Informational Item - Chairman Weisberg

***Next Schedule Meeting:*** Chairman Weisberg discussed changes to the Commission's meeting schedule. The Commission members recommended moving the next meeting to December 6, 2016 and the following meeting to January 5, 2016.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:  
December 6, 2016  
One Judiciary Square (441 4<sup>th</sup> St., NW), Room 430S.