



Olympia's Response to Homelessness  
[olympiawa.gov/homelessness](http://olympiawa.gov/homelessness)

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# Homeless Response Plan Update Land Use & Environment Committee September 19, 2019

Stacey Ray, Senior Planner  
Amy Buckler, Strategic Projects Manager

# Agenda



- Status Update:
  - Guiding Principles
  - Strategy development
- What We Are Hearing
- Community Work Group Members
- Next Phase
- Relationship to 5-Year Plan
- Engaging Community Partners



# Purpose of a Homeless Response Plan



- Engage the whole community in the response
- Cultivate regional partnerships
- Identify long-term strategies and actions
- Use metrics to learn and track our success
- Build a more resilient community

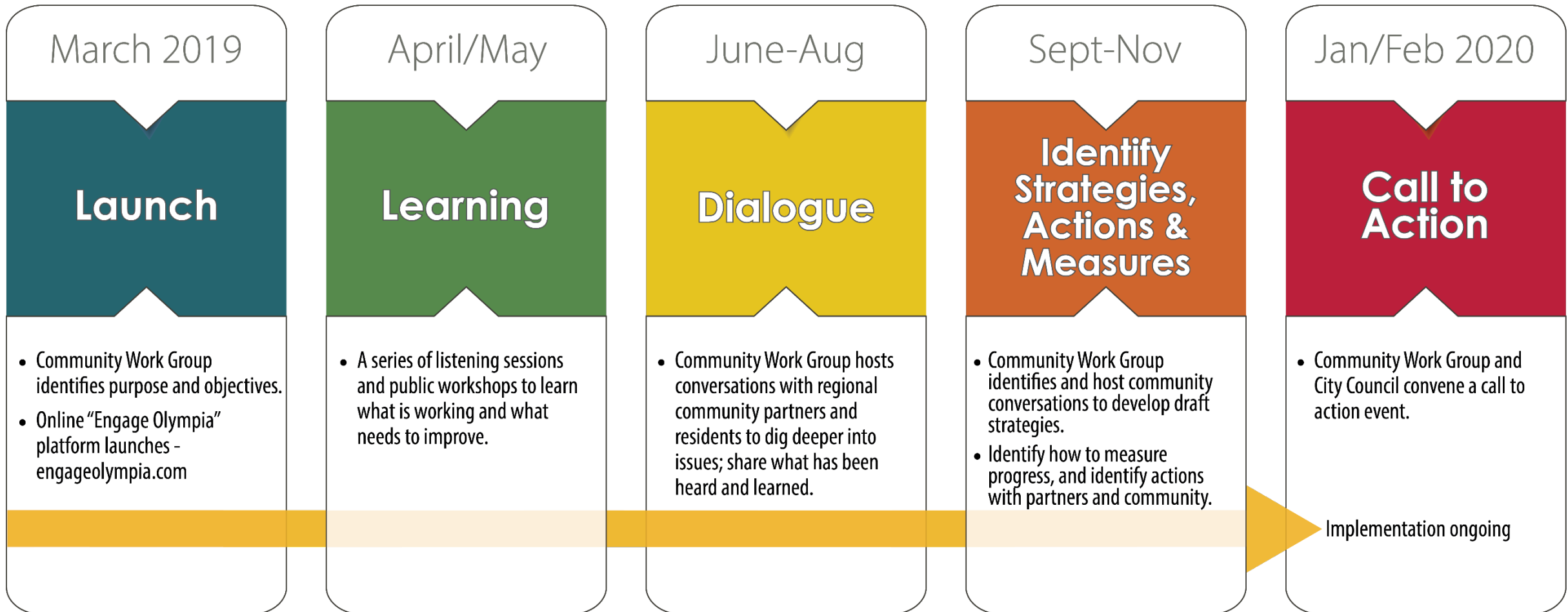


# Community Work Group



- Their role: **Help shape and shepherd the process**
- Invite in a broad variety of viewpoints and experiences
  - Help host conversations and listen to what's being shared
  - Identify areas in which to learn more
  - Use the input collected throughout the process to identify strategies, actions, and ways to measure progress





# What We've Done



17 workshops, focus groups, listening sessions, and community conversations with:

- Olympia residents
- Community resource partners
- Downtown businesses and property owners
- Individuals experiencing homelessness
- Faith community, social service, public institution and private sector leaders
- City employees



# Guiding Principles

## **Community Work Group has:**

- Listened to a broad variety of community perspectives and ideas
- Identified key areas of agreement and disagreement
- Discussed what was rising to the top as important to our community

## **Result: A set of Guiding Principles**

- Work together as a set
- Possible strategies should meet the principles
- Incremental progress is okay



# Strategy Development



- Develop Draft Strategies
  - What we've heard
  - What we've learned
  - What's working
- Community Conversations
  - Draft strategies
  - Metrics
  - Partnerships
- Work Group Refines Strategies to Reflect the Community





# Key Tensions



- Unmanaged camps
- Investing in emergency actions vs. prevention
- Enforcement and accountability
- Opioid crisis
- Expectations for accepting help and making progress



# What We've Heard

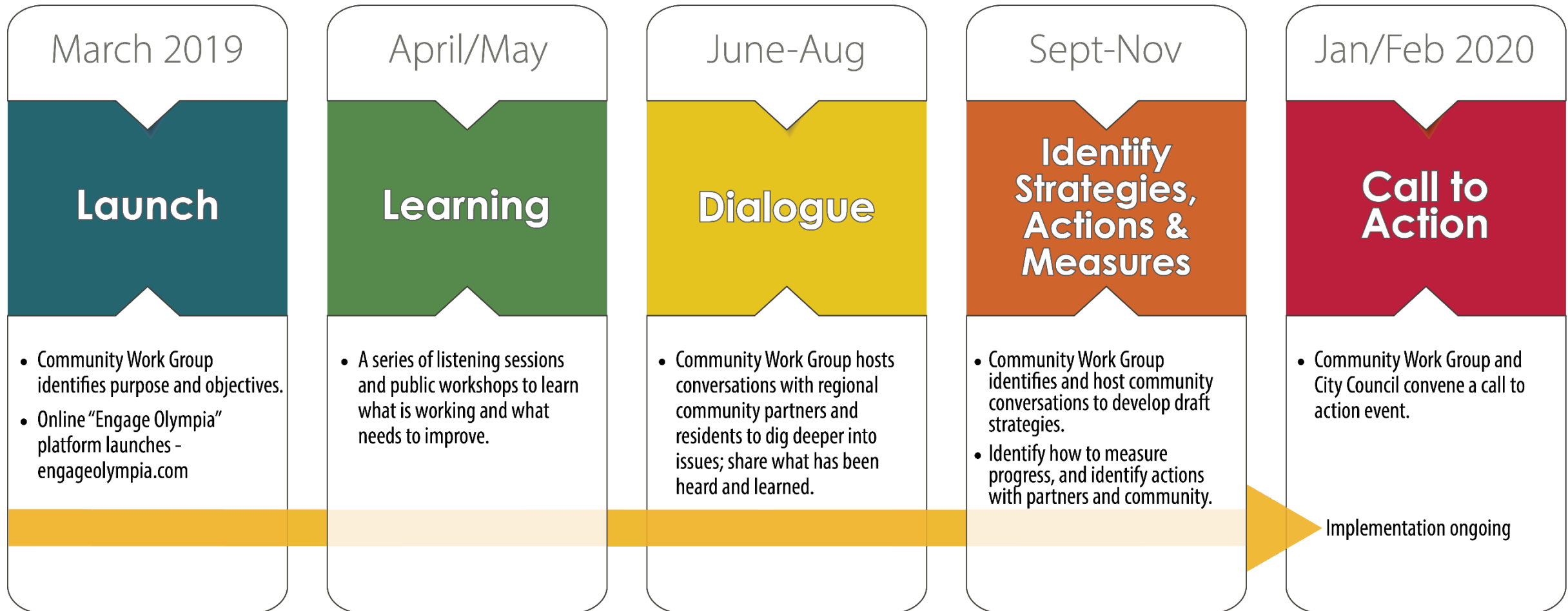


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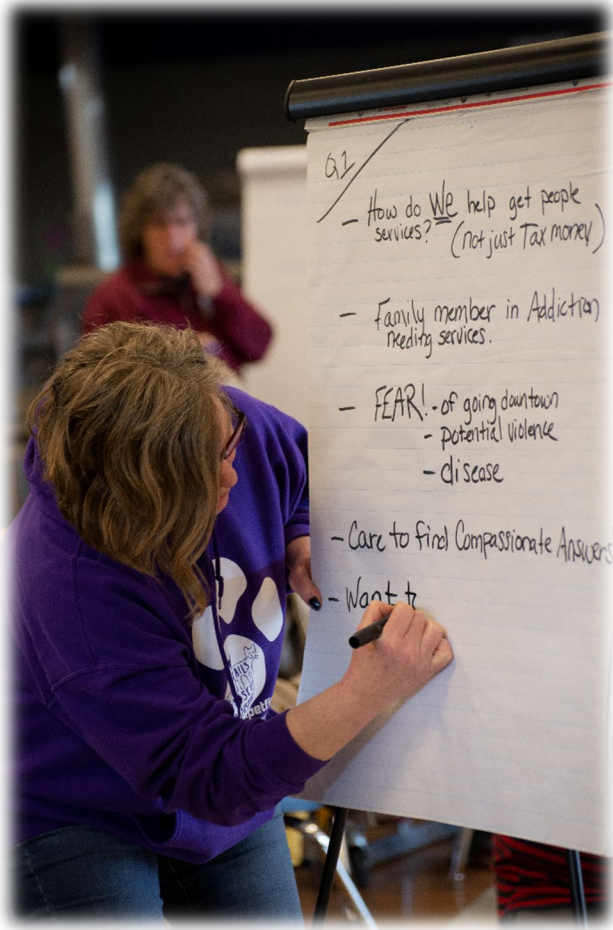


Robert Coit





# October Engagement



## Workshops for:

- Community Resource Partners
- Coalition of Neighborhoods
- Individuals Experiencing Homelessness
- Public - Sat., Oct. 26, 9-11 am, Olympia High School

Online Survey

Online video to set the stage

Briefings for urban cities



# Thurston County Homeless Crisis Response 5-Year (Regional) Plan



- County Commissioners expected to adopt in October
- Draft update in review
- Presentation for Olympia City Council on Oct 15



# Olympia's Relationship to Regional Plan



- Regional plan goals are important to the Olympia community
- While Olympia does not oversee the regional system, we:
  - Rely on a well-functioning system
  - Can be a model for how to support it
  - Can help public understand how it works and what the gaps are



# Different Focus



- Regional plan: the homeless crisis response system
- Olympia's plan: the whole community



# Engaging Community Partners



- A clear path forward will help foster partnerships
- Potential partners have been engaged along the way
- Important role for City Council to help cultivate partnerships
- Will pull in and highlight organizations already doing the work
- Need an ongoing process to keep plan and partnerships alive







# Questions?

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