From:	Jill Pfeiffer
To:	City County Homeless Issues Committee
Cc:	Jen Ripp
Subject:	Briarpatch Submission to City County Homeless Issues Committee
Date:	Friday, June 6, 2025 11:11:15 AM
Attachments:	Outlook-cid_image0.png

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To the City County Homeless Issues Committee:

On behalf of Briarpatch Youth Services, we ask the city to strongly consider renewal of funding for Briarpatch Youth Services homeless services. The Briarpatch Runaway and Homeless Youth Program and the Briarpatch Youth Shelter Program have received critical support from the City and County since inception. This support is vital for our community because Briarpatch is the only agency supporting 12–17-year-old youth who are facing housing insecurity and instability. We provide the county's only voluntary youth shelter for minors. The voluntary nature of youth shelter means that young people have a role in their own safety and self-determination.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Program (RHYP) and the Youth Shelter work in collaboration to provide a comprehensive range of services for youth, including individual and family counseling, crisis intervention, temporary shelter, case management, and a 24-hour help-line. Our primary focus is to help reunite youth with their families and resolve challenges through advocacy. Additionally, our dedicated staff work one-on-one with each youth to foster strong decision-making skills and guide them away from self-destructive behaviors. In 2024, RHYP provided 850 Help-Line Calls and 1158 Supportive Service Hours for individuals and families.

We have seen an increase in shelter utilization over the past year. More families are experiencing true homelessness. While a family is seeking stability or shelter, Briarpatch Youth Services provides much needed comfort and consistency in a young person's life, providing a safe space, warm meals, mentorship, while maintaining a school connection. In 2024, we provided 1,377 nights of shelter.

Lastly, we want to mention our participation in the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program and Briarpatch's commitment to being a strong partner in providing Rapid Rehousing support and case management to young adults (18-24) seeking stability.

We understand that this year will bring about difficult funding decisions. While making these decisions, please remember the unique niche that Briarpatch fills in our community. Often times being the sole lifeline for young people forgotten by traditional systems of support.

Sincerely,

Jill W. Pfeiffer – Executive Director Briarpatch Youth Services
Jen Ripp – Program Director (RHY), Briarpatch Youth Services
Willie Watkins – Manager, YHDP and Street Outreach Program
Brendan Daker – Manager, Youth Shelter

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