

# A PRACTICAL PLAN FOR SAFE COMMUNITIES

Delaware







# A PATHWAY TO SAFER COMMUNITIES FOR DELAWARE:

We all know that youth are in a stage of dynamic development and are capable of great change. So when youth and teens make mistakes or get into trouble with the law we need to hold them accountable to their behavior in a way that improves public safety by giving them the tools to rehabilitate.

Just as a bicycle works best when it uses the right gear for the terrain, our youth justice system should use different resources for different situations. Instead of over-relying on the gear for secure lockup, we should be able to shift gears to mental health treatment, addiction services, trauma-focused treatment, and opportunities for young people to learn and practice the skills they need to become responsible adults. With this common-sense approach, we could get where we need to go; holding youth accountable, while ensuring that they are rehabilitated and our neighborhoods are kept safe.

Join Delaware Center for Justice in partnership with the National Juvenile Justice Network to promote this practical plan to improve safety and ensure youth thrive.

## DELAWARE'S SAFE KIDS, SAFE COMMUNITIES PLAN:

**HB 305:** This bill helps ensure youth can make amends and move beyond their mistakes. We all make mistakes, HB 305 will prevent youthful behavior from following individuals into adulthood and respect the boundaries of Family Court.

**HB 306:** We can hold youth accountable in developmentally appropriate ways. HB 306 will empower judges to consider a young person's age and prioritize public safety by creating an avenue for judges to transfer young people back to Family Court if deemed best for rehabilitation.

**HB 307:** Prioritize public safety by eliminating arbitrary mandatory minimums instead allowing experts in the system to tailor their response based on the young persons' needs factoring in any potential risks to public safety.

**HB 308:** Continue Delaware's commitment to provide options to hold youth accountable in their communities by passing HB 308 which removes the sunset provision on civil citation.

For more information on any of these bills, please contact Kate Parker at [kparker@dcjustice.org](mailto:kparker@dcjustice.org).

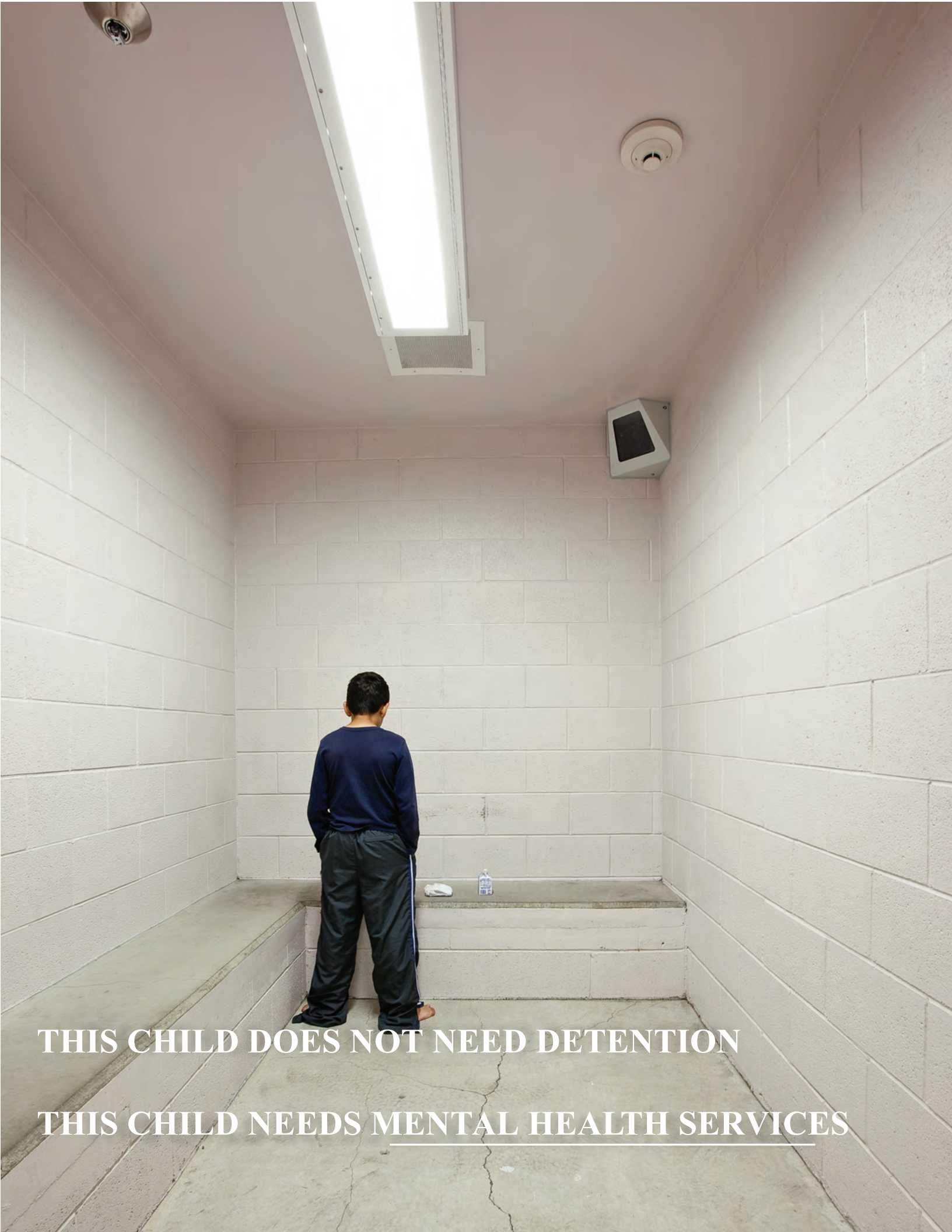
**TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD A PATHWAY TO SUCCESS FOR  
DELAWARE'S YOUNG PEOPLE.**



**TIME OUT 1**

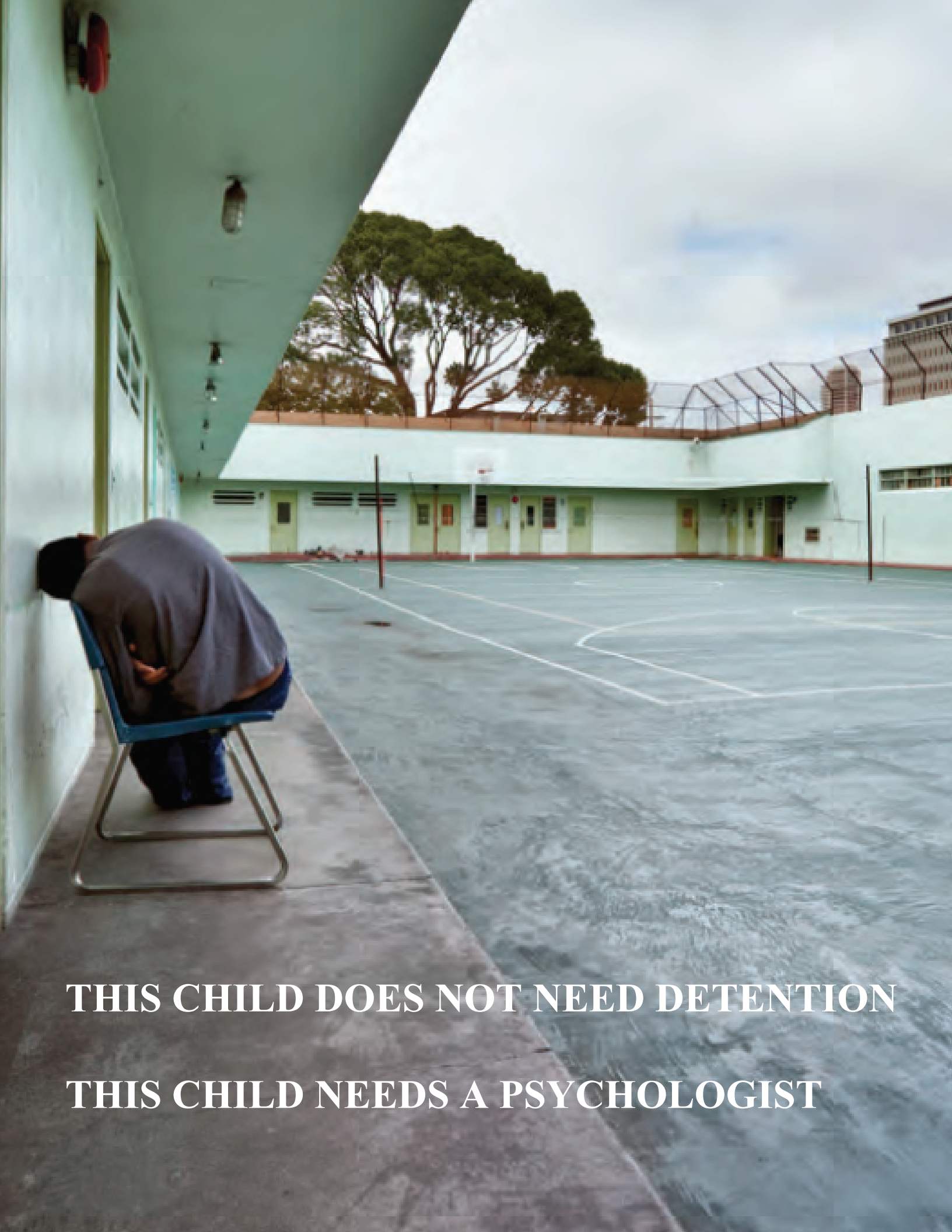
**THIS CHILD DOES NOT NEED DETENTION  
THIS CHILD NEEDS SOCIAL SERVICES**





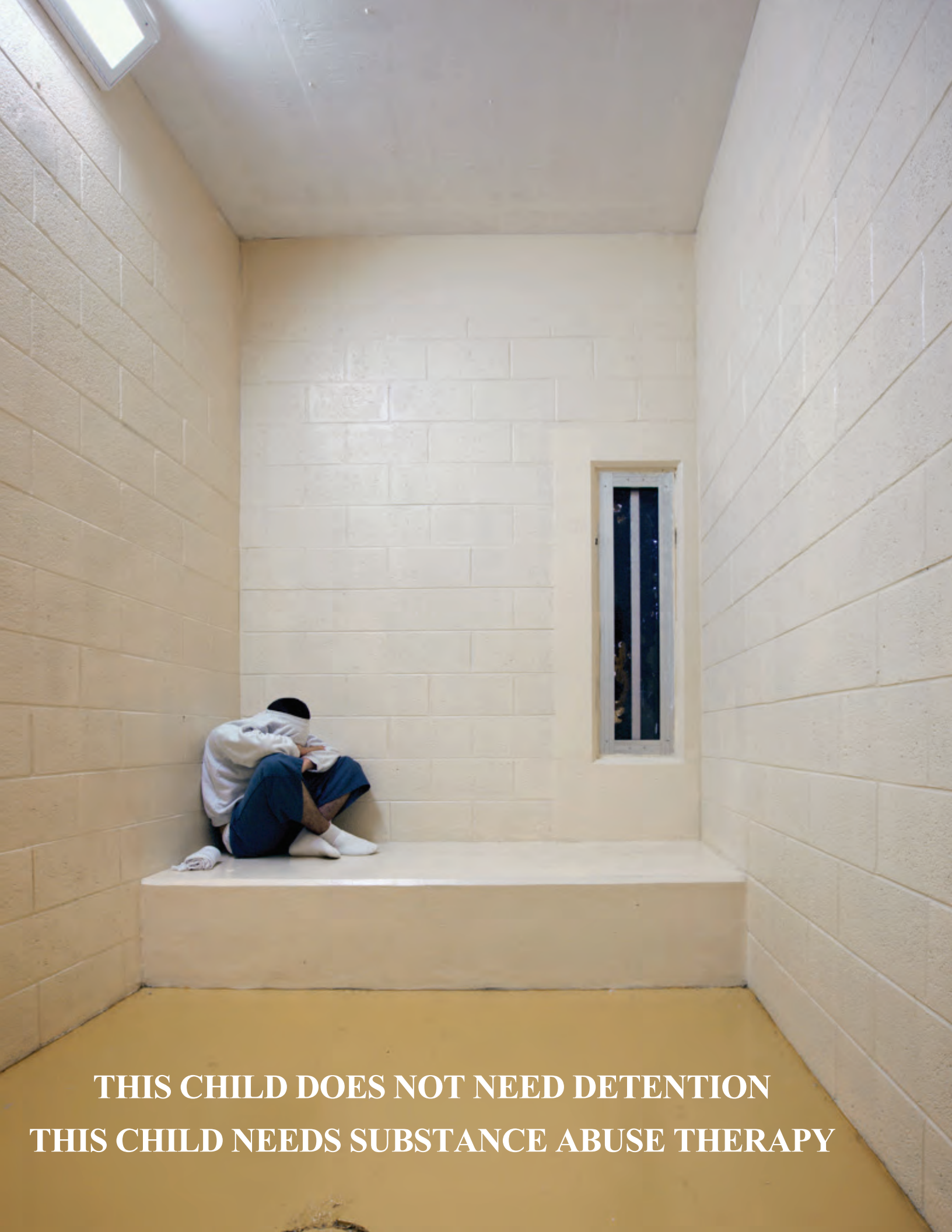
THIS CHILD DOES NOT NEED DETENTION

THIS CHILD NEEDS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



**THIS CHILD DOES NOT NEED DETENTION**  
**THIS CHILD NEEDS A PSYCHOLOGIST**





**THIS CHILD DOES NOT NEED DETENTION  
THIS CHILD NEEDS SUBSTANCE ABUSE THERAPY**

The National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN) leads a movement of state-based juvenile justice reform organizations and alumni of its Youth Justice Leadership Institute to fight for a fairer youth justice system that's appropriate for youth and their families. NJJN advocates for policies and practices that treat youth in trouble with the law with dignity and humanity which strengthen them, their families and their communities. For more information, visit [njjn.org](http://njjn.org).



The Delaware Center for Justice is a member of the National Juvenile Justice Network and serves both adults and youth who are justice-involved - transforming the delivery of justice in Delaware and implementing programs that facilitate fresh starts for victims of crime, youth at risk, and the incarcerated. For more information, contact Kate Parker at [kparker@dcjustice.org](mailto:kparker@dcjustice.org) or visit [dcjustice.org](http://dcjustice.org).

