
REGIONAL DIGEST

Straight Inc. moves to Maryland

Straight Inc. has found a new home in Maryland, but state officials said the drug-treatment facility is not accredited to operate here, according to a published report yesterday.

Rick Sampson, director of Maryland's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration, told *The Washington Post* that inspectors are being sent to evaluate the Howard County facility.

Maryland officials initially said the company did not have to be certified because it was accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.

Mr. Sampson learned this week that the accreditation cannot be transferred across state lines, the paper said.

Straight Inc., which claims a 70 percent success rate, has been criticized for its confrontational form of rehabilitation. The company, which is part of a national chain of treatment centers for adolescents, closed its Springfield, Va., facility last week amid allegations that it violated state regulations. It moved the center to Columbia.

Straight will be allowed to operate in Columbia until the certification process is completed, Mr. Sampson said.