

State regulators scrutinize Straight Inc.

COLUMBIA (AP) — A drug treatment program that moved here just before it was to lose its Virginia operating license is having problems with Maryland regulators.

Straight Inc., which moved on July 29, has been plagued by allegations that it mistreats youths.

“It hasn’t helped that we’ve also received more than our share of negative media coverage,” Straight Inc. spokeswoman Joy Margolis said last month.

Maryland authorities agreed to grant the center a provisional license for one year on condition that Straight Inc. abide by an agreement governing its activities.

Recently, the program has suffered high staff turnover as a result of its move from Virginia. And

Straight Inc. officials are having a hard time finding new clients. The center’s enrollment, which stood at 52 clients in July, has dropped to less than 40.

Straight Inc. went a couple of days without telephone service earlier this month when a bookkeeping error left a bill unpaid, an officials said. Service has since been restored.

Last month, Maryland regulators charged that the program was violating the agreement and threatened to take action against the center.