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Drug Program Director Resigns

By MARK HANSEN

Herald-Tribune Reporter
Dr. George Ross, who spearheaded a drive to build a drug rehabilitation clinic in Osprey, quit the program last week nine days short of the building's dedication.

Dr. Ross, clinical director of LIFE, resigned during a meeting of the Board of Directors and left his position at the drug abuse clinic on Friday.

Ross was vacationing this week and could not be reached

for comment about his reasons for leaving or his plans for the future.

According to his successor though, Ross left LIFE over "contractual obligations" during a "parting of minds" with the clinic's board.

Dr. Robert Nay, a clinical psychologist who consulted with the program for eight months and operates a private practice in Venice, was named to replace Ross.

"It's no major thing, the pro-

gram goes on," said Nay of the transition from Ross to himself. "I know it was his decision alone to resign and I am here to see that the program doesn't skip a beat."

Nay is a native of Sarasota County who spent the last 10 years as an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Illinois. He returned to the area last fall, to set up a private practice in Venice and consult with the LIFE clinic.

Ross holds a doctorate in

education from the University of South Florida and served for 18 months as assistant director of Straight, Inc., a drug rehabilitation center in St. Petersburg, before coming to Sarasota County.

Nay said Ross was taking a "much needed rest and considering his options."

Those options, Nay said, include similar drug rehabilitations elsewhere or a private practice.