

CONTROVERSIAL DRUG PROGRAM CLOSES ITS TREATMENT CENTER

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Straight Inc. was under investigation by the state before the controversial adolescent drug treatment program closed its St. Petersburg center this weekend.

Elaine Fulton Jones, spokeswoman for the state Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, confirmed the ongoing investigation, but said she was barred from providing any details. She also said she knew of nothing to indicate the investigation had anything to do with the center's closing.

Straight began 17 years ago with a philosophy of using other adolescents and reformed drug users to confront current users. The unorthodox approach became the target of complaints, investigations and lawsuits.

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