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## city AND state

ST. PETERSBURG ■ THE SUNCOAST ■ FLORIDA

ST. PETERSBURG TIMES      section 3      WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1978

### Drug program will treat youths

A new drug treatment program, called Straight Inc., is scheduled to open in St. Petersburg Sept. 1 to treat youths between 12 and 18 who have drug-related problems, but are not hard drug addicts.

James Hartz, a psychologist from Augusta, Ga., has been hired to direct the program.

The program was organized by a group of Pinellas County citizens who hope to fill the gap created by the closing of the Seed Inc. last October. However, backers say

Straight Inc. is not affiliated in any way with the Seed.

Hartz said the new program will treat "the individual as a total human being" rather than concentrating simply on drug use. For example, he said youths with school problems will be directed to remedial programs.

Hartz said he expects the program will work with the courts to provide an alternative to imprisonment for young non-addicts who can be treated for drug-related problems.