

Drug rehab program says it's misunderstood

A Tribune Staff Report

ST. PETERSBURG — State health officials fail to understand how an effective treatment program for alcohol and drug addiction operates, an official from Straight Inc. said Friday.

The official's comment comes after two recent state reports criti-

cized Straight's rehabilitation centers in Pinellas Park and Orlando for allowing the restraint of patients and sloppy record keeping.

The state Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services renewed the operating licenses for each center for only three months, instead of the standard one year.

"We just have to have a meeting

of the minds," said Michael Scaletta, administrator of Straight's Orlando program. "I don't think we have a problem with anything HRS is saying; this is just a learning process for everybody."

Scaletta said he hopes to meet with HRS officials in the next few weeks to discuss the report and license.