

January 12, 1978

PDMHD (Harry W. Moffett)

SUBJECT: Attached report from District V Concerning Project Straight, Inc. Investigation

TO: PDMH (Robert R. Furlough, Ph.D.)

Approximately two months ago, Jim Holley, Mental Health Specialist from District V, called and indicated there were reports from various people within the St. Petersburg community that there were problems with Project Straight, Inc., a private non-profit organization licensed as a day care program with foster homes. He indicated that the district staff were forming a task force to investigate the allegations.

The task force has been meeting since that time, and on January 10, I met with task force members to consult with them on their findings. Attached you will find Part II, Scope and Conclusions of the investigations, and also Part III, Action Required and Recommendations.

On Thursday I met with Bob Marshall, District Administrator, and members of the Licensing Review Committee and the task force who have been investigating Project Straight, Inc. It was decided to issue a ninety-day interim license to Project Straight. Also, because of the serious allegations made to the investigators there is a possibility that the District Administrator may turn over his full report to the State Attorney's office. I raised the question of both federal and state laws regarding confidentiality for drug clients.

I seriously question the handing over of the report to the State Attorney's office, which includes names and addresses of current clients and some former clients. I recommended that Mr. Marshall consider having the State Attorney's office subpoena his report rather than just giving it to him without a subpoena.

Robert R. Furlough, Ph.D.
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At the time of this writing, it is unknown whether Mr. Marshall will, in fact, turn over the entire report to the State Attorney's office without being issued a subpoena.

It should be noted that this project is funded by LEAA and local contributions, and there is no general revenue funding involved.

Update:

January 13, 1978

I received a call from Jim Holley, District Mental Health Specialist at 2:30 p.m., January 13, 1978, regarding the Project Straight report. Jim indicated that Bob Marshall, District Administrator, and Barbara McPherson, Attorney, met with a staff member from the State Attorney's office in St. Petersburg, and it was determined that the State Attorney's office would subpoena the entire report, which includes names of current clients and former clients of the Straight Project.

The subpoena has been issued, and the entire report has been turned over to the State Attorney's office. Mr. Marshall has indicated to his entire staff that this information is confidential, and the fact that he has turned it over to the State Attorney's office is not to be released to anyone.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please let me know.

Harry W. Moffett

HWM/rmh
Attachment

cc: ASP

Peter B. C. B. Ivory, M.D.
Frank D. Nelson

STRAIGHT INVESTIGATION REPORT

Confidential

By John Bustle
January 11, 1978

STRAIGHT INVESTIGATION REPORT - Confidential

INTERVIEW - [REDACTED]

White male, date of birth 4-25-60 - Parent [REDACTED]

Telephone Number [REDACTED] Employed at [REDACTED]

Respiratory Therapist.

Since [REDACTED] is still on the run, I was unable to interview him, however, I felt it necessary to interview the person closest to him, that being his mother. I spoke to Mrs. [REDACTED] on her job and she gave the following information. She advised that at the time [REDACTED] went into the Straight Program he was on all kinds of drugs and had been involved in them for some time. She advised that she led him to believe that she was taking his sister into the program but when she got them there, having carried with her, she left both of them at the Program. She felt that initially [REDACTED] did not want to stay in the Program, however he did up until the point that he ran October 27, 1977. Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that from the beginning in the Program she was able to see her children every Monday and Friday nights in the open meetings, however, they were not permitted to talk until they had earned the privilege: I asked Mrs. [REDACTED] if [REDACTED] had at any time ever complained to her about being mistreated in any way and she advised that he had not, further, that she had never seen any sign of any injury, bruise, mark, etc. on her son during his stay in the program. Mrs. [REDACTED] did note that she had seen great changes in [REDACTED] as a result of the program and that when he began to come home after passing through the first phase and the second phase, he was a completely different youngster. [REDACTED] seemed to be happy and headed in the direction of "getting straight." She advised that she felt that there was no indication

that _____ or his sister, either one for that matter, were unhappy in the program up until the point that they ran. Mrs. _____ felt that there was no real problem with _____ up until the point that she decided not to buy any more cigarettes for him; this occurred in the early part of October, just about two weeks prior to the boy's leaving the program on the run. She advises that she has another son, _____, age thirteen who is currently in the program and is doing very well. Both she and her other children feel that _____ and his sister are unable to face reality. Mrs. _____ states that she would not accept _____ or his sister back into her home unless they were willing to return to the Straight Program.

Mrs. _____ as is obvious, is very much in favor of the Straight Program and plans to volunteer time in the program in the near future. _____'s mother went on to state that she had never heard of any food being withheld from a child in the program and had never seen any violence there, or been aware of any for that matter. She also advised that she did know that they had locked kids in a room by themselves for a time to calm them down but did not feel that that was a bad practice. She states that Mrs. Peterman is very good with the kids and works hard in the program, further that if there was a problem she would be able to talk it over with any of the Staff at any time. Mrs. _____ states that the rules of the program were explained to her and the kids and a copy was given to them as well at the time of their intake. She also advised that she felt the newspaper articles about her son and the program are one-sided and less than accurate.

Mrs. _____ made it a point, that at no time, did any newspaper reporter attempt to talk to her about her children and the situation with the Straight Program and she was quite disturbed over the fact that they seemed to know where the kids were when she didn't and couldn't find out. She advises that she is almost certain that the kids are with their father in Ohio. With this information,

the interview with Mrs. [redacted] was concluded.

A call was placed to Deputy Howe of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office on the 27th of December 1977 regarding a teletype to the Dayton, Ohio Police Department requesting that [redacted] be taken into custody on the strength of the court order issued by the Pinellas County Juvenile Court. Deputy Howe advised that he would send the teletype and would call as soon as a reply came in on it.

INTERVIEW - [redacted]

White female, date of birth 7-12-60, mother's name [redacted] Apartment [redacted] Telephone Number [redacted] Date of the interview, December 27, 1977.

[redacted]'s complaint came in through State Representative, Kurt Kaiser's office who informed us that [redacted] was claiming that she had been mistreated in Straight and at the Detention Center and claims to have been wrapped in a blanket while at the Straight Program and sat on. Initially our concern was with the Straight Program, however, I felt that it was necessary to also look into the accusation that the Detention Center had abused the youth as well; therefore, I took that first and followed up with the straight information. I checked the records at the Pinellas County Juvenile Detention Center and found that [redacted] had come in on November [redacted] 1977 at the Detention Center for screening. When she came in she had a new hairdo and was made to take a shower and use quehl (for lice) which is normal procedure. [redacted] objected to the procedure at the time due to the fact that she had a new hairdo, however, she made no particular fuss other than verbal objection. It was noted at the time of her admission to the Juvenile Detention Center that [redacted] had scars all over her body. On

November 1977 was released to the Straight Program on a release form signed by her Counselor Richard Kirwin. Later on the same date [redacted] was brought back to the Juvenile Detention Center for punching a Straight Staff member in the face causing a cut to that persons lip. The Straight staff members who brought [redacted] to the Detention Center were Nancy Gresham, Jr. and Losie Metty. [redacted] informed the admitting Counselor Brenda George that she did not understand why she was forced to return to the Straight Program in the first place by the Court. She complained to Miss George that she had been wrapped in a blanket at the Program and called names. She also told Miss George that she did not like her Public Defender. Miss George entered these things in her interim placement report. In addition to finding this information in Miss George's report, I interviewed Mrs. Hankins of the Detention Staff who had dealt with [redacted] while in the Detention Center; as a member of the Staff I know her quite well. Mrs. Hankins advised that [redacted] had been upset over having to have her hair shampooed with quehl because of her new hairdo, but other than that there was nothing unusual in her Intake procedure. Mrs. Hankins further advised that [redacted] had been no real problem and that she and Mrs. Obremski, another member of the staff, had received letters from [redacted] who had since been sent to the State Training School at Trenton telling them how much she had enjoyed her stay at the Center while in their care. Concluding this portion of the complaint I then contacted the State Training School at Trenton and found that [redacted]; had been sent home for a home visit with her mother for the week. On December 27, 1977 at 10:30 A.M. I was able to interview [redacted] at her mother's home in St. Petersburg, Florida. [redacted] advised that she initially began the Straight Program on April 11, 1977. Mrs. [redacted] added that [redacted] made second phase on May 9, 1977 and third phase in the program on June 24, 1977. [redacted] then went on while in third phase to enter the Pinellas Vocational Technical Institute on July [redacted] 1977. However,

on August 29 of the same year, [redacted] attempted to run from the program because she found out that she was going to have to start over in the program because of some attitude problems which the Straight Staff felt she had. [redacted] advised that initially when she went into the program she refused to sign any papers and during her entire stay in the program continued to refuse to sign anything. Mrs. [redacted] was told that while [redacted] had been in the program it was necessary at times to restrain her by wrapping her in a blanket for fighting with various staff members and to keep her from hurting herself. Mrs. [redacted] advised that [redacted] ran on September 27, 1977 and since that time she had either been in the Juvenile Detention Center, a Shelter Home, or on the run. On October [redacted], 1977, [redacted] was held at the Juvenile Detention Center and on the following date had a detention hearing. Her mother was present at that hearing and talked to this Counselor and asked that [redacted] be placed back into the Straight Program at that time. After my interview with Mrs. [redacted] I referred the case to Roselyn Connelly in Intake "D" who ultimately placed the youngster in the non-secure program on October 31, 1977 from where she ran. On November [redacted], 1977, [redacted] was returned to the Juvenile Detention Center and was held in secure detention at that time. [redacted] confided to her mother that sometime in October during a group Mrs. Peterman slapped her in the face. Mrs. [redacted] advised that she had intended to ask Mrs. Peterman about this but never got around to it. [redacted] advised this Counselor that Mrs. Peterman had called her a whore during the last two months of her stay in the Straight Program because she would not stay or cooperate with the program. [redacted] advised that during the slapping incident, she had attempted to run from the program and was brought back into the program by some of the staff members and other clients involved. [redacted] was confronted by Mrs. Peterman and [redacted] made such remarks to Mrs. Peterman as "fuck you" and "suck a dick". [redacted] advised that Marcie and Amy, who were both staff members, were present when Mrs. Peterman slapped her, as was [redacted] and others. The slapping actually

took place in the Clinic and [redacted] advised that Mrs. Peterman hit her in the face three or four times with her hand. [redacted] states that she was then rolled in a blanket for as much as an hour. [redacted] states that during her stay in the program, she had a meal withheld for throwing the crust of a piece of bread away. At times she advised that she had meals withheld in the foster homes for not cooperating in the program. [redacted] also states that in September of 1977, Marlene, a Staff member, cut [redacted]'s hair against her will. [redacted] states that she had been strapped up for fighting. She describes the straps as being made of a canvas type, stretchy material which were wrapped around the knees and around the arms and the straps were about twelve inches wide. [redacted] states that she was then placed in a chair and taken before the group in this condition. She states that some of the witnesses were as follows: [redacted]

[redacted] son of [redacted], Investigator for the State Attorney's Office. On November 14, 1977 when [redacted]'s Counselor Richard Kirwin signed a release turning her over to the Straight Program, [redacted] states that Mr. Kirwin told her she would probably do something and be put out of the program anyway. She says that later when she arrived at the Program and refused to cooperate, she kicked Staff Member Liz Cassidy in the leg first and then hit her in the mouth causing injury to her lip; for this reason she was returned by the Straight Staff to the Juvenile Detention Center and terminated from the program. [redacted] advises that conversations that she had with her Counselor or anyone else had little to do with her conducting herself in the Straight Program in the manner in which she did. At the present time, [redacted] blames Straight Program for the fact that both her brothers [redacted] who were in the program had very negative feelings about her. She says that her brothers are brainwashed and feels

that both of them should look up to her rather than be against her. [redacted] also feels that the program should be either closed or changed but could offer no suggestions for any improvements in the program. [redacted] did make some admissions regarding the program; she states that even though she was tricked into going into the program in the first place by her mother, that after a week of the program she did feel it was helping her. Mrs. [redacted] advised us that her other two children who are in the program, both [redacted] are doing very well and do have some very negative feelings about their sister. Mrs. [redacted] advised that she feels the boys feel this way because [redacted] has had such a negative attitude and has done so many negative things in the past. Mrs. [redacted] has very strong feelings about the positive aspects of the Straight Program and is very much in favor of it and feels at this time that there are no obvious problems with the program. This concluded the interview with [redacted] and her mother.

INTERVIEW - [redacted]

White female, date of birth 1-10-64, address [redacted]

Florida, Telephone Number [redacted] mother's name is [redacted]

On December 28, 1977 this Counselor accompanied by Wallace Webb, of Vocational Rehabilitation, went to the [redacted] home and met with [redacted] and her mother at 11:00 A.M. that date.

[redacted] states that she began to have trouble at home in the form of family problems with her mother and older sister. [redacted] says she began to feel as though she was not a part of the family. Because of ungovernable behavior, [redacted]'s mother had sent her to an outing at the Florida Bible College in Miami, Florida designed for kids with problems. While at the Florida Bible College outing, [redacted] got into some trouble by walking away from the activities and was placed on a bus and sent home for this. Mrs. [redacted] advised that when she learned that [redacted]

was being sent home for disciplinary reasons from the Florida Bible College
outing, she was desperate and knew of no other resources that she could go to
for help with _____, however, in the process of looking she had heard through
a friend something about the Straight Program and had investigated it and
learned that they would accept _____ even though she did not have a drug problem.
Both Mrs. _____, and later _____ were told that the program was for people who
might have a drug problem or might be potential runaways who would fit into that
kind of a pattern. Mrs. _____ got _____ entered into the program and requested
some assistance in meeting _____ at the bus. On the morning that the bus ar-
rived at the bus station, _____ was met as she got off the bus by her mother,
Mrs. Peterman and Staff Members Marcie, Amy and others who were introduced by
Mrs. Petro to _____ as their new next door neighbors. _____ was asked if she
wanted to go in these peoples car or with her mom. _____ said that she told them
she would go with the people since she got mad when her mother asked her a
question like that in the first place. _____ advised at that point they sur-
rounded her and grabbed her by the arms and took her to the car. _____ states
at that point she fought getting into the car and it took all of these people
which amounted to, she thought, five people to get her into the car to take her
to the Straight Program. _____ states that as the car pulled up in front of
Straight, she tried to run from the car when it stopped in front of the building
and in the scuffle, Lorie was scratched on the arms. _____ states that they
took her inside, and then rolled her in a blanket and talked to her. _____
states that during the intake she was forced to sign a paper saying that she
was doing drugs. _____ states that she had been up on the bus all night and
very tired, but was told that she couldn't sleep until she signed the paper.
_____ advised that she was never given any of the rules, however, Mrs. _____
did get a copy of the program rules for parents and the rules for Phases one,
two, three, and four, plus a clothing list requirement for Phase One. _____

states that initially she never got to talk to her mother for four to five weeks because she had not earned the privilege. This was confirmed by her mother who states that during the entire two months _____ was only permitted to talk to her two times in open meetings and two times on the side in open meetings. _____ states that she ran from the group one day into the men's room and tried to hide there, however, when she got in there she realized that someone else was in there and turned and was confronted by _____, who had been in the room. _____ talked her into going back out to the other clients who were looking for her, which she did, however when they attempted to take her into the group meeting room _____ fought and ultimately was taken in tow by Mrs. Peterman and Mr. Hartz who came out to see what was going on. Mrs. Peterman and Mr. Hartz took her into a room and Mrs. Peterman called her a bitch in front of Mr. Hartz and then talked with her and finally took her back to the group. _____ states that Mrs. Peterman grabbed her by the hair and jerked her backwards and called her a bitch. _____ says that Amy on the staff, cut her hair because she had "security" in her hair. _____ advised that in order to give her the haircut, they wrapped her in a blanket so she could not fight it and cut her hair very short, almost like a crew cut, which according to _____ looked very bad. _____ states that she saw _____ strapped with large canvas-like material straps around her legs and arms and her body and sat in a chair and brought into the group strapped in that condition. She also states that they cut _____ hair and fingernails while _____ was strapped up. _____ advised that she saw _____ throw chairs and fight before being strapped up, but did not feel the treatment was fair. _____ states that on several occasions, she tried to get sent to the Juvenile Detention Center by doing various things to agitate people in the program. She states that at one time she put her foot on a chair, however, a Staff member whom she describes as a guy with a mustache came up and scratched her finger until it bled. _____ states she then wrote "hell raiser" in blood on her leg to try and

be sent to Juvenile Detention Center. [redacted] advises that she did this in group, but all they made her do was to clean her leg off. [redacted] states that the Staff members told her that she had caused her parents divorce and that they had hated her for it. [redacted] advised that it bothered her to the point that she went home and she mentioned it to her mother. Mrs. [redacted] confirmed that [redacted] had made such mention to her and that she had assured [redacted] that that was not the case at all, that [redacted] had nothing to do with her and her father's divorce, that this was something that had occurred well before [redacted] was ever big enough to cause any problem for any family member. Mrs. [redacted] advised that did upset her however, and, inasmuch as [redacted] was out of the program she was never able to confront them with it. [redacted] states that finally she and [redacted] unscrewed a window at the Smith's home, which was a Foster home at which they were staying and escaped from the program. She advised that they were gone for a week and that they got picked up finally and were taken to the Juvenile Detention Center. [redacted] states that on the following date she appeared before Judge Page who released [redacted] to her mother from the Court. [redacted] did not return to the Straight Program. It should be noted that [redacted] was in the program for approximately two months, entering it on August 6, 1977 and running from it on October 27, 1977. In talking to [redacted] mother she related that [redacted] had begun to have some school problems and some rather severe family problems around February, 1977. But prior to that [redacted] had had no real severe problems of any type. Mrs. [redacted] advised that she had sent [redacted] to the Florida Bible College program and while [redacted] was there had talked to Reverend Askew who recommended the Straight Program for [redacted]. Mrs. [redacted] went to an open meeting which looked good to her. She states that she saw about three hundred parents and about two hundred kids at the meeting. She said that she heard kids tell that they had turned on with teachers, counselors, etc. Mrs. [redacted] states that she told the Straight Program that [redacted] did not have a drug problem, but the Staff suggested that she sounded like she might have. Mrs. [redacted] advised that when she was notified that [redacted]

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was out of the Florida Bible College program, it was about 1:00 A.M. in the morning and she called a friend who called the Straight Staff to help her pick [redacted] up at the bus station. Mrs. [redacted] states that when [redacted] came into the bus station, [redacted] had said to her that she had tried marijuana while in Miami and that she still felt high when she got off the bus, however, it should be noted that [redacted] denied that. Mrs. [redacted] felt that she had no other choice with [redacted] but to place her in the Straight Program because there was nothing else available and she had reached her wits end with her daughter. Mrs. [redacted] advised further that she feels the Straight Program is somewhat unorganized, mainly because she lost clothing for [redacted] during four different moves and four different Foster homes. In one of the moves in one of the Foster homes, [redacted] had been assaulted by [redacted] and Straight told Mrs. [redacted] that the reason [redacted] had hit [redacted] was for calling her a whore. [redacted] denied that she ever called anyone in the Foster home anything like that. [redacted] according to Mrs. [redacted] gained twenty pounds while in the program, however, [redacted] complained bitterly of the food and stated that it was mainly peanut butter and jelly or "green baloney". She states that the meals were served twice a day which consisted of sandwiches at the program, and if you were lucky you got cereal or toast or something at your Foster home in the morning, and if you cooperated with the program and wanted to be there they fed you at night otherwise you did not receive any extra food from the Foster home. Mrs. [redacted] advised that Straight asked the parents to volunteer for providing food, donating money, cutting hair, supporting the various activities at the Straight Program. [redacted] mother says that she never knew of any abuses and is confused about this. She feels that [redacted] sometimes gets mixed up. She states that she did pay for a physical examination but never saw a medical report for it although [redacted] indicates that she was in fact examined by a doctor. Neither [redacted] or her mother ever got a copy of the safety standards for Foster homes and according to Mrs. [redacted], one

one of the most upsetting things was that she never got all of [redacted] clothes back and to this date still does not have them. Mrs. [redacted] feels that the Straight Program is a good program and that it is one that the community needs, but is very concerned that if her child, was in fact abused, she would like very much to know about it.

INTERVIEW - [redacted] :

White female, seventeen, [redacted] Clearwater, Florida, Telephone Number [redacted]

We received a call from [redacted] indicating that she wanted to assist in the Straight investigation by giving information that she felt might be valuable to the Committee. [redacted] indicates that her parents placed her in the Straight Program on October 25, 1977. She states that at the time she went into the program she was having a great deal of family problems and was heavily involved in marijuana and pills. [redacted] states that she was tricked to going into the program and arrived Straight Intake, did not want to stay, but Staff members bodily carried her to the program. [redacted] states that she refused to undress to be searched and was threatened with having her clothes cut off. She states that she was told that she could not talk for three days after this. [redacted] states that on the seventeenth day in the program she tried to run from her old-comer [redacted]. She states that [redacted] grabbed her by the throat and threw her on the ground in front of the Foster home, and in the process scratched her and hit her. [redacted] advised that after this she had asked for a one on one with her parents and that Mrs. Peterman had told her that it was set up for the following day, however, it never took place and the parents were never made aware of the request. This was confirmed by [redacted] mother, Mrs. [redacted]. [redacted] states that the day the Health and Rehabilitative Services people and reporters

were in the program to interview people that she was kept away from them and watched carefully by the Staff members so she could not talk to any of them. [redacted] advised that during the day on December 8, 1977 she screamed and kicked and fought because of program pressure. Later that day, [redacted] parents were told that they would have to come get [redacted] and take her out of the program because she was disrupting the group and doing bizarre things. Mrs. [redacted] advised that Mr. Hartz told her that he had given [redacted] the test and felt that she needed to be in a mental hospital. [redacted] states that she was told that she was a homosexual, a slut, a bitch and many other things simply because she had admitted in a group that she felt that she was a bi-sexual. [redacted] states that her hair was cut after she was convinced by one of the staff that it was needed. She said that her hair was cut very short after that. Later in an open meeting while singing Christmas songs, [redacted] refused to stand up and sing, as did her parents; it should be noted at this point that [redacted] and her family are Jehovah's Witnesses and do not believe in the songs or the concept of Christmas. [redacted] says that Jim Hartz is never available in the program and that Mrs. Peterman runs the show according to her. [redacted] advised that she was told that she could not have security in her parents but that it must be in yourself or in the program. She states that the Foster home was so bad that she stayed in at one point, that sewage was backed up, the house was run down (she was referring to the [redacted] home), and that there was no heat or blankets and very little food in the place. On December 8, 1977 [redacted] advised that she was not given supper because she did not deserve it and was denied restroom privileges during the same period because she sang a song that was not approved. [redacted] feels that the basic concept of the Straight Program is sound, but feels that the excesses need to be corrected in the program. [redacted] gave an example of an excess as Mrs. Peterman calling her "you little bitch". She states that

Mrs. Peterman also drew her hand back like she was going to slap her, but didn't; but certainly led her to believe that she would have. [redacted] states another excess was simply that she was watched while she took a bath, or went to the toilet, etc., and she states that her clothing have never been returned from her first phase visits to the Foster home. [redacted] mother advised that when she first came home, she cried for several days and since the family had placed [redacted] in the Straight Program on the advice of Dr. Pierson, they took her back to Dr. Pierson after being removed from the program and told by Jim Hartz that she needed to be in a mental hospital. Dr. Pierson advised the [redacted] family that [redacted] was not and is not a mental case. Mrs. [redacted] feels, as does [redacted], that the Straight Program is basically a good program, but that the excesses in the program need to be corrected badly. Mrs. [redacted] states that she has other children that she would place in the program and had even considered doing that but was told that none of the other kids could be placed in the program until [redacted] was put in a mental hospital. Mrs. [redacted] does not feel that is right or even a valid suggestion. It should be noted that one of the other items that [redacted] complained bitterly about was the food in the Straight Program; states that on many occasions they were given "green baloney" on sandwiches. [redacted] states that although she had never seen anyone physically abused in the program, she had certainly heard screaming by some of the kids and the staff yelling. [redacted] feels that they try to dehumanize everyone that comes into the program. She states that she feels she did experience some good things in the program which made her want to change, which [redacted] feels that she was able to do on her own, with or without the program. [redacted] states that one of the things that disturbed her is that when she left she was told that she was going back to Slutsville and drugs. [redacted] feeling at the present time is that the program should not be closed, but that it should get straight itself. She feels that Mrs.

Peterman has much, too much power and that the parents were not kept up-to-date and were told only what the staff wanted them to know, nothing else. In talking with _____ mother, Mrs. _____, I noted that she seemed to be very close with her daughter and that the family itself seemed to be a rather close knit group. I found these people to be very open and seemingly very honest in their observations of each other and the program itself. With this information I concluded my interview with _____.

INTERVIEW - _____

_____ is a white male, seventeen _____ his father is _____
_____, Investigator for the State Attorney's office, _____
_____ advised that he was placed in the Straight Program by trick and didn't want to stay when he first went into the program. _____ advised that, in fact, he did tell them that he was going to run, but his Dad and Mom advised him that if he did run, he would only be brought back to the program. _____ advised that when he was placed in the program, he was involved in marijuana, alcohol, pills and hash. _____ states that he feels the program has done him a lot of good, but that he had to give up certain freedoms while in the program. He advises that on more than one occasion he had spent an entire day in a room by himself until 6:00 P.M. at night and that Straight is not the kind of program that you can just walk out of the program, although he did indicate that there were occasions when he probably could have sneaked off and run from the program, but he did not. _____ states that he felt like he did have a problem but felt for the most part he could deal with it himself. He states that he progressed pretty well through the program and made it all the way to the third phase and then was put back into second phase for wanting more freedom while in the third phase. _____ indicated that the third phase was a phase in which he returned

to school and could not see any reason why he could not talk to some of his old associates. _____ indicates that he has his ups and downs, but he feels that he does need the program because it has pulled the family and himself together.

_____ states that at one time he started to fight by punching another client in the stomach in the Intake room and as a result was given a peanut butter sandwich and water for Thanksgiving instead of turkey, but was later offered turkey but turned it down to make them feel bad. _____ states that at one time he was in a room by himself and was told by a staff member, Don Harmon that he had permission to bounce _____ off the wall if he didn't get his feelings out in the open. _____ confirmed this for me. He stated that he had told the man that he could do just that if he had to. _____ states that the groups are run by staff members and generally consist of one-hundred-fifty people or so in the groups and that there are five or six staff there also. He states that there are clients on the side who have reached higher levels in the program to make sure that the people in the group pay attention and don't get disrupted.

_____ states that they have regular exercise periods where they run and do exercises in the program. He states though, that if you refuse to run and you are disrespectful, you are dragged. _____ states that on one occasion he saw Mrs. Peterman slap _____ in the face three times for trying to run out the door. He states that she got out the door and he and _____ caught her and brought her back in. In the process she knocked another client down trying to get out from _____. _____ says that when she was brought back to Mrs. Peterman, Mrs. Peterman told her she was not going to destroy peoples lives and slapped _____ in the face. She was taken into the clinic and later came back into the group. _____ saw _____ brought into the group strapped with canvas-like material. _____ also saw _____ wrapped in blankets for fighting other clients and he helped drag _____ for falling asleep in group. _____ states that _____ got some rug burns as a result of being dragged on that occasion.

He states that this is now changed, that they make them do exercises now rather than drag. _____ states that he has heard some male staff call some female clients whores and bitches, etc. He feels that you could talk with Mr. Hartz but you would have to go through the chain of command to do it and this would take some time. _____ advised that he was told that he could not talk to his folks for the first fourteen days until he had earned the privilege. He stated that he earned that privilege by making changes in his attitude. _____ recalled that during the incident in which _____ was slapped, _____ had told Mrs. Peterman to "get the fuck out of here," "you are a whore and a bitch" - she kept saying that. She also said that Jim Hartz was a "Fucking Asshole". _____ father advised this Counselor that he saw _____ wrapped in a blanket to subdue her, to keep her from hurting herself or someone else. He stated that he observed this after _____ had become very violent at one of the meetings.

INTERVIEW - ~~MICHAEL & DIANA SHANAHAN.~~

*CORRECTION - DO NOT DELETE.
THESE ARE NOT CLIENTS.*

Both Mr. & Mrs. Shanahan who were interviewed by this counselor agreed that in the beginning the Straight Program was a very good program and was working well. They stated they felt after having gone through The Seed and being involved in The Seed they were able to bring the best things from The Seed Program to the Straight Program and do away with the things that they felt were objectionable in that program. The Shanahans' both advised that the element of fear was not in the Straight Program in the beginning and they were able to relate to the kids and felt a very close relationship with a lot of the clients. The Shanahans felt the clients were responding to this type of treatment knowing that someone cared and was willing to help them through their problems. Both Mr. & Mrs. Shanahan felt the program began to develop problems when Mrs. Peterman was appointed Staff Supervisor and given authority over all staff members in the

program. They advised that she was preoccupied with sex and that she, in fact, talked a lot about sex in groups. Diana Shanahan advised that at one time while conducting a rap group Mrs. Peterman got down on the floor in front of the group, which consisted of girls, and demonstrated various sex positions to the girls in the group indicating these were positions used in various parts of the world. It should be noted this was later corroborated by Mrs. Henson who advised that the daughter was in that particular group and observed what Mrs. Shanahan had stated. The Shanahan's both advised that it was clearly understood by the staff that no one under the age of 18 could leave the program by just walking out. Mike Shanahan advised that Jim Hartz said that if a kid went outside the building we couldn't stop them but if they were still in the building we could stop them anyway we wanted to within reason. Mike said he asked Jim Hartz if he meant just don't hit them and knock them down and he said that Hartz replied no, use equal force but just don't tell anybody. Shanahan's stated that on many occasions Mike was called upon to help drag a client for failure to participate in running or exercise programs within the program or to subdue a client who had become unruly. The Shanahan's felt that after Mrs. Peterman took over the program the element of fear began to creep into the program and become a part of it. Diana Shanahan advised at one point she saw Mrs. Peterman slap the in the face several times after she picked the child up by his hair. She then took him in a room and hit him several more times and Ron Salencis tried to stop it and was told by Mrs. Peterman to "get the hell out, I can handle this". According to Mrs. Shanahan, this took place around 8:30 to 9:00 P.M. during the month of July, however, she did not recall the exact date. Others present besides herself and Ron was Ron's wife, Debbie Salencis. The same youngster was made to sit in a room by himself from 8:00 A.M. until 10:00 P.M. for approximately a week. He was fed and given water and taken back to the Foster home at night. The Shanahan's also advised that kids were made to scrub down bathrooms with a toothbrush or to sweep a parking lot with a small broom. Although the

Shanahan's have some bad feelings regarding Jim Hartz and Helen Peterman, they both feel the program is very much needed in Pinellas County. The Shanahan's feel that Jim Hartz is unqualified for his job and indicate that prior to his coming with the Straight Program he had no experience in dealing with drugs or drugies and knew nothing about them when he got the job. Both feel the program would work fine if Jim Hartz and Helen Peterman were not involved in it and in concluding the interview both felt that the fear tactics which they feel are now used in the program are very bad for the kids involved. CONCLUSION OF INTERVIEW.

INTERVIEW - [REDACTED]

White male/dob 9-26-61, address [REDACTED], St. Petersburg, [REDACTED].
 On 1-3-78 I interviewed [REDACTED] and his mother at their home. [REDACTED] initially spoke with this counselor and indicated when he first went into the Straight Program he was involved with marijuana, and alcohol abuse. [REDACTED] was entered into the program on 5-23-77. [REDACTED] advised he was tricked in going into the program by his mother and on his intake he states he had difficulty with Mike Shanahan, who he claims hit him with his fist and slammed his head against the wall. Mrs. [REDACTED] advised she was not aware her son had been struck or handled in the manner in which he had been handled, otherwise she indicates she would have not permitted him to stay in the program had she known this. [REDACTED] advised that at no time was he free to leave the program, that he, in fact, ran four times and each time up until the last was returned to the program. Mrs. [REDACTED] advised she was told by Mrs. Peterman and various staff members never to believe anything [REDACTED] said because he would say anything to get out of the program. [REDACTED] states that at his intake they told him to sign some forms and he did but he didn't know what he signed. He advised that three or four months into the program he signed the Foster home agreement which he understood that he was signing at the time. [REDACTED] advised he spent three or four nights

in the actual Straight building because he was such a runaway risk, advised at one time he was dragged by _____, a youth named _____ and _____ advised just prior to being dragged by these people approximately one and a half months prior to them dragging him, he had several stitches taken in his head from an accident and during the time the above mentioned people grabbed him to drag him one of them grabbed him by the hair, arms, clothes and they dragged him causing severe soreness to the area that had been stitched as a result of him having had the accident mentioned. _____ advises that at one point in the program during late August he got strep throat and was given no medical attention. He advised that he received none until he was placed in the Juvenile Detention Center in October, 1977, and at that time was looked at by Dr. Coffey and Nurse Ferguson on the JDC Staff. Mrs. _____ advises she was told by Mrs. Peterman the program would rig charges with the _____ Foster Home to get _____ into the program on a court order. _____ was ultimately charged with Assault, Petit Larceny, and Vandalism and placed in the program under a court order. Mrs. _____ advises she will swear to this statement she has just made. _____ told his counselor that because he wasn't working some of the Foster homes wouldn't feed him. Most of the time he advises he was fed peanut butter & jelly sandwiches or balogna sandwiches. _____ and his mother both indicate he lost from 15 to 20 lbs. over a six month period of time in the program. He indicates the food he was served was very bad. Mrs. _____ advised at every open meeting Mrs. Peterman would pass an open jar for contributions for the milk fund. _____ advised he only got milk at the program maybe 30 times within six months. One of Mrs. _____ concerns was she had seen the amount of money that had gone into the jar as it was passed through the audience and could not understand why the kids were not fed better and given milk on a regular basis. Both _____ and his mother states they saw a girl, _____, carried from an open meeting in a straight

jacket. _____ states that in October, 1977 he saw _____ brought into a group with her legs strapped together and her arms strapped together and placed in the group in that condition. _____ also states that he saw _____ run until he was red, almost purple in the face, from being forced to run. Mrs. _____ indicates that at one point in the program she was told she had to buy new clothes so _____ could improve his self image and _____ was told that his mother had lost her job because of him, however, his mother said this was nothing but a lie. _____ states he had restroom privileges taken away 10 to 15 times during his stay in the program for disobedience. He advised at his intake he asked five times to go to the bathroom and was refused. His mother was present on one of those occasions and verifies this. _____ advised that he was yelled at and cursed at by different staff. Mrs. _____ states she heard Jim Hartz tell a boy that he was a "piece of shit". _____ states that when he was dropped from the program he was sure the Straight Staff tried to get him sent to the state training school. In spite of all the problems in the program, Mrs. _____ feels the program is good but the violence needs to be stopped. She feels the junior staff needs to be better controlled and feels the program could be improved and is needed in the community. _____ feelings are that he is not in favor of the program. He states he feels pretty bad about it, however, he does admit that in ways it did help him but he's glad to be out of it. Mrs. _____ advised that she had been in contact with _____ mother, _____ and Mrs. _____ requested this counselor get in touch with her regarding some information about the program. CONCLUSION INTERVIEW WITH _____

INTERVIEW - _____

This interview took place on 1-3-78. _____ dob is 8-18-61, home address is _____ father - _____, Investigator for State Attorney's Office, _____ It should be noted _____ was interviewed after having been

brought in to the Detention Center from the Straight Program. [redacted] advises he first entered the program on 4-14-77 and was involved in marijuana and alcohol. [redacted] advised that he went into the program voluntarily after talking with his parents but did not want to stay once he got there, however, tried to con his way through it and remained in the program until the 54th day in the program when he was told he could not go home and so on the 55th day he ran from the program while taking the garbage out. [redacted] advises while in the program he had had a lot of ups and downs and was told repeatedly that he would die if he didn't go through the program. [redacted] admits that he has had a lot of bad feelings about some of the things in the program but feels some of the things have helped him. He states that in October, 1977 he and [redacted] saw [redacted] slapped in the face and head very hard about five times by Mrs. Peterman. [redacted] advised that [redacted] was then assigned to watch [redacted] in the think room after Mrs. Peterman finished with him. [redacted] states that in "come downs" they hit you, yell at you and pull your hair. He states that in one point in his come down he was thrown on the floor and his shirt torn off. It should be noted that [redacted] confirmed he had seen his brother with his shirt torn off at one point in the program. [redacted] states this went on about five hours until he cried and said he was sorry for what he had done. [redacted] states that on Wednesday, December 28th, they put him in a cage where they keep the paint, brooms and mops and slammed the door catching his right hand in the cage door. [redacted] states it was cut by the door and he was given no medical treatment until the next day. [redacted] advised he never has told his father about any of his injuries. At this point it should be noted that [redacted] talked to this counselor and advised that he was aware [redacted] had injured his hand, however, he states [redacted] had made statements that he was going to get even with the program and was going to tell HRS that he had been deliberately injured by members of the program and he was going to call [redacted] as well. [redacted] states on the fourth occasion that he ran Straight

staff members Marey, David Hopkins, and Burt Hardy took him back to the program. He states they gave him a choice of going back with them to the program or with the police, so he went with them anyway. [redacted] advises on the last occasion he ran the fifth time, they put him in the middle of the girls to make him feel bad. He states he asked to return to the boy's group and was told to sit down. He states that Dave Crock got very rough with him. [redacted] advised when they placed him in the middle of the girl's group he was placed there at approximately 12:00 Noon and remained there until 6:00 P.M. and he asked to go to the restroom and was told he could not go, that he should just do it in his pants right there. [redacted] states that Jerry Christian was the staff person who told him what he should do as far as his restroom request was concerned.

[redacted] indicates that he knew [redacted] and states everything [redacted] told the paper was true and he doesn't care what any one else says about it. [redacted] states he kept telling the Straight staff he didn't want to be there, that he wanted to leave and they advised him that it wasn't up to him, that it was up to his father.

[redacted] states on many occasions that the staff swore at him and he had considered running from the program and going to JDC but didn't do it. [redacted] advised he asked Robin and Mrs. Peterman if he could talk to HRS when they were there during the interviews and was told that he could not. This concluded the interview.

INTERVIEW - MR. & MRS. BAUKNIGHT:

Former members of the Board of Directors with Straight Inc. During my interview I learned very little that we don't already know and that is not already listed in the reports by other members of the team, therefore, I did not find it necessary to record very much of the information given by the Bauknights. I did find, however, that the Bauknights were able to furnish me with several documents, one being represented by Mr. Bauknight as the original by-laws of the

corporation. Mr. Bauknight also gave me a copy of his letter of resignation from the Board of Directors and a copy of the resignation from the Board of Directors submitted by his wife, finally a copy of the resignation submitted by Hap Henson, Robert Chaffan, and Theodore Anderson, also former members of the Board of Directors. With these documents in hand and information which helped me gain some insight into the inter-workings of the corporation, I concluded my interview with Mr. & Mrs. Bauknight.

INTERVIEWS - MRS. L. A. HENSON:

Former intake mother with the program. Also with Mrs. Henson was Mrs. Rose, mother of Tim Rose, who is a former staff member and Mrs. Rose's address is 7102 Lawnview Court in Tampa, Florida, 886-6561. I interviewed Mrs. Henson and Mrs. Rose together at the Henson home which is located at 2601 67th Way, North, St. Petersburg, 343-2923. On January 4, 1978 at approximately 2:00 P.M. both Mrs. Henson and Mrs. Rose advised that they were involved in the formation of the program when they and several other parents felt there was a definite need for a program of this nature in the community. Mrs. Henson states she heard Mel Simbler, the president of Straight, Inc., tell her husband, Hap Henson, that Jim Hartz was hired for his degree and that Helen Peterman would operate the program. Mrs. Henson advised as did Mrs. Rose that they had no idea Helen Peterman would be involved in the program at the level she is now involved or they would not have supported it from the beginning. Both ladies feel Mrs. Peterman has some problems, one of them is that she presses a great deal for any detail involving anything relating to sex. Mrs. Henson indicated to this counselor that the [redacted]'s daughter had been in a group at one point in the program where she observed Mrs. Peterman down on the floor, in front of the group, demonstrating various sexual positions said to be used throughout the world. This was a female group conducted by Mrs. Peterman. It should be noted

that this coincides with information received from Diana Shanahan, a former staff member in a previous interview. Mrs. Rose advised that during one of the first intakes she had done she did an intake on [REDACTED]. She stated at the time she was doing the intake she noted the youth was unusually quiet which was to her very alarming. She states she went to Helen Peterman and other staff members and told them of her fears with the youth and stated she did not want to be left alone with him because she thought he was going to go off the deep end, and on returning Helen Peterman, Ron Solonas and Mike Shanahan went with her. Mrs. Rose advised that when they got into the room Helen Peterman began to talk to the youth and the youth went off the deep end. Ron Solonas and Mike Shanahan and he went rigid and was drug from the room by the two boys in that condition. She states that each of the boys grabbed the [REDACTED] boy by an arm and were dragging him with his heels dragging the floor while Helen Peterman walked along behind the boy kicking him. Mrs. Henson confirms this and states she was an eye witness to this incident and would swear to it in court. Mrs. Rose and Mrs. Henson both advised at the time this incident took place it was also witnessed by Jim Hartz and his wife Debbie who came in as it was going on. Both Mrs. Henson and Mrs. Rose feel that some of the more negative aspects of the Straight Program are the obscene language used by members of the staff toward clients and the practice of coventry. Both feel this is very detrimental to the children's welfare. It is their feeling that such a program is very definitely needed in this community, however, they feel the program needs to be cleaned up and operated as it was in the beginning. Mrs. Henson and Mrs. Rose gave other information, however, the information given was much the same information received in a previous interview by another committee member of Hap Henson.

INTERVIEW - [REDACTED]

Mother of [REDACTED], white/male, 15, [REDACTED], Pinellas Park.

mother works at the _____ in St. Petersburg. I went to the _____ residence to talk to both Mrs. _____ and her son, _____, and found that _____ was unavailable. I did talk to Mrs. _____ who advised that she had placed her son _____ in the program at Straight in June of 1977 and he was dropped from it in October of 1977 for running. Mrs. _____ advised when her son _____ talks about the program he gets very upset and he hates Jim Hartz and Mrs. Peterman. She states her son talks on many occasions of having not been fed or being run a lot or pushed around or being verbally abused. She states that one time when her son ran from the program they didn't even bother telling her until late the next night at an open meeting. Mrs. _____ feels she could never get any help from the Straight staff when she wanted it, for instance when _____ was on the second phase she felt he was going to run and tried to tell them and they gave her a junior staff member who did nothing. She states when _____ first went into the program he liked it, he would tell her the program was changing and he didn't like the changes. She states at first there seemed to be a real closeness and that it seemed to change with time. She said _____ told her on occasion that the staff was not getting along as well anymore and he didn't like that change. Mrs. _____ advised she feels the program is good but it needs to be straightened out and feels one of the things she would do to straighten it out would be to get rid of Jim Hartz and Mrs. Peterman. She states that at one point while _____ was in the program her ex-husband was told by the Straight staff he could take _____ into a room and beat him. She advised this really upset her because she has custody of her son in the divorce court order. Mrs. _____ feels when you have a youngster in the Straight Program you do what they tell you or else, you are required to cooperate no matter what. She gave an example; if one of her children were sick she was still required to be at the program. She went onto mention that she never was able to get all of _____ clothing back and it took a week to get what she did get back. Mrs. _____ states that on the date

her son was dropped from the program she got a call from Mrs. Peterman who told her to come and get her son or that he would be taken to the Juvenile Detention Center and since her son had never been at JDC she did not want him there so she went to get him. Mrs. [REDACTED] advised that before she was able to take [REDACTED] and leave the program she heard Mrs. Peterman and Jim Hartz tell [REDACTED] he was no good, in fact, they called him a child molester and told him that people in jail kill child molesters because they are the lowest scum on earth. She states they told him he most likely wouldn't live to be 20 and she advises she heard Jim Hartz say "I hope you get blown away". Mrs. [REDACTED] feels that any good that might have been done for her son in the program was destroyed when he got the little talk from Mrs. Peterman and Mr. Hartz just prior to his leaving the program. She advises her son [REDACTED] has a tremendous hatred for these two people. Mrs. [REDACTED] could offer no further information of any value to this counselor so at this point the interview was concluded.

Scope and Conclusions

SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION

During the conduct of this investigation, the task force interviewed 48 clients who are in the program at this time, 13 of the 14 currently employed staff, 9 members of the current Board of Directors, 5 foster home families, 5 former Board members, 4 previous employees of the program, 2 parents who earlier had children in the program, ~~6 clients who, for one reason or another, had children in the program~~, 6 clients who, for one reason or another, had dropped out of the program, 9 graduates of the program, and 9 clients and/or their parents who we had reason to believe were either involved in or observed physical or verbal abuse. A review of the records and files was also carried out.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Straight, Inc. is providing a much needed service in the community. There are, however, areas of serious concern within the program. Currently, 235 clients are enrolled in the Straight, Inc. program and an additional 50 have graduated. These are children who were involved with multiple drugs. Areas of concern will be addressed in following conclusions.
2. From the sample available, it would appear that many of the graduates are maintaining a drug-free life. Six months after the first graduation, Straight, Inc. sent out 27 follow-up letters. Eleven replies were received and all reported a drug free life style. The task force interviewed nine graduates and all reported a similar drug free pattern.
3. The program is very poorly administered, both by the Executive Director and the present Board of Directors.
 - a. Program rules are not in compliance with regulations (see Florida Rules for Drug Abuse Program, 10E-7.11 (8), page 6). The task force could find no evidence of written policy and rules governing the action of staff in handling various aspects of the program, such as strip and search, restraining (when to use, who to use, how to use).
 - b. Personnel practices are not in compliance with regulations (see Florida Rules for Drug Abuse Program, 10E-7.11 (9) & (10), pages 6 & 7). The program could not supply the task force with any written personnel policies. Personnel files did not provide basic information as to date of employment, basis for employment (letters of recommendation and/or statement of qualifications), record of in-service training, pay data, record of grievances, reports of evaluations of employees, termination documentation including exit

3.b. Continued:

interview. There was no evidence of any formalized in-service training program.

- c. It appears that the Advisory Board is not being effectively utilized (see Florida Rules for Drug Abuse Program 10E-7.11 (16), page 9. The task force was not supplied any written minutes of Advisory Board meetings. Several persons interviewed stated that requests for consultation were made but never carried out.
- d. A review of the Board of Directors' minutes of Board meetings indicates that Robert's Rules of Order are not being followed as required by the By-Laws of Straight, Inc., Article IV, Section 4.

4. Supervision of the treatment staff by the Executive Director is inadequate. The program is conducted 12 hours a day, seven days a week. As a result of the extended hours, the Executive Director, who is the only professional on the staff, is absent during many treatment hours. During his absence, supervision must rest with a staff supervisor who is not professionally trained.

5. When the Executive Director is absent from the program, there is no other professional leadership available within the physical confines of the plant. During the time the task force was actually in the facility and the program was in full operation, Mr. Hartz was absent from the building more than present.

6. Based on available evidence, in-service training of the para-professional staff is totally inadequate. The only formal training noted was a "Listening Course" by Juvenile Welfare Board, staff meetings, and OJT for several new Junior Staff Members. Evidence of a planned staff development program was not available.

7. The majority of the complaints focus upon the Staff Supervisor, Mrs. Helen Peterman. Complaints allege that she is not qualified, that she has been both verbally and physically abusive toward some of the clients, that she is crude and vulgar, and does not appear to have the temperament necessary to discharge her responsibilities. There have been allegations that Mrs. Peterman slapped clients, kicked clients, pulled clients' hair, and used abusive language. As Staff Supervisor, she also bears responsibility for the forced cutting of clients' hair, forcing clients to run excessively, and the use of straight-jackets.

8. Section 10E-7.11, paragraph (13) of the Rules of the State of Florida, Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services' Drug Abuse Program governing all drug abuse treatment and education center, requires that a written consent for treatment by the program be obtained from any person, or his/her guardian. This applies to all clients. This requirement has not been complied with by Straight, Inc.

9. Section 10E-7.11, paragraph (14) of the same rules, and Section 397.041 Florida Statutes, require that no person who voluntarily submit to treatment may be retained in an approved program against his/her will. Evidence indicates that the program is not in compliance with this regulation. Interviews with 48 clients revealed 13 entered of their own free will, and the remainder were placed there by the courts or their parents.

10. There appears to be a lack of concern for client safety, both in the foster homes and in the transportation of clients to and from the program. It was reported that at times excessive numbers of newcomers would be assigned to a home designed for and affording facilities for much less. It was also noted that cars bringing clients to the program in the morning would contain up to eight youngsters plus the driver.

11. The task force feels that the food supplied to the clients is totally inadequate. Sandwiches, sometimes without any form of dressing, are furnished for lunch and dinner. Several of those interviewed maintained that they did not always get a breakfast at the foster homes. The program does not have adequate facilities to prepare meals. In one case, it was stated that baloney for sandwiches was "green".

PART III

Action Required and Recommendations

1. A ninety (90) day interim license has been issued to Straight, Inc. in order to allow sufficient time for compliance with the Rules, State of Florida, Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, Drug Abuse Program, hereinafter referred to as the Rules and for consideration of the other recommendations made herein. The Rules (10E-7.11 (7) (a)) require that a license must be denied if the applicable program is not in compliance, although F.S. 397.091 (3) allows for an interim license. An interim license may be renewed only in cases of extreme hardship and in which the failure to fully comply with the requirements was not caused by the applicant.
2. Reference Section 397.041, paragraph (5), Florida Statutes. No clients shall be held in the program against his/her will under any circumstances, effective immediately. Further safeguards should be established to preclude this from ever happening in the future either by staff or clients.
3. Reference Section 10E-7.11, paragraph (13) State of Florida Rules. The program will secure written consent from each client, or his/her guardian, for treatment to be rendered by the center, effective immediately. Further safeguards will be established to insure that no client will enter the program in the future without signed consent forms.
4. Reference Section 10E-7.11, Licensing Requirements and Procedures. The Board of Directors will establish necessary written policies covering such requirements as paragraph (8) on Program Rules and paragraph (9) on Personnel (particularly the maintenance of personnel records and the distribution to all Personnel of written personnel policies). Important areas which should be included in the Program Rules are foster home placement procedures and strip and search procedures. In order to establish clearly Board policy in these and other areas, Board minutes should be more complete and accurate and signed by the appropriate authority. The Program Rules and Personnel policies should be forwarded to the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, District V, within 45 days of receipt of this report.
5. Reference Section 10E-7.11 (8) and (9), page 6. The program rules and personnel practices will be brought into compliance with the Florida Rules. These rules should include written rules and regulations for the following:
 1. Personnel Policies
 - a. Pay and Allowance
 - b. Leave
 - c. Annual Review
 - d. Work Schedule and Hours
 - e. Grievance
 - f. Others as required

5. Continued.
2. Disciplinary Policies for Clients
3. Strip and Search
4. Conduct of Staff and Clients
5. Treatment Procedures and Limitations

Copies of above should be provided to District V, HRS, within 60 days.

6. Reference Section 10E-7.11 (10) Florida Rules. Straight, Inc. will provide the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services District V, with a written schedule of proposed training activities for the coming year. This should be forwarded to HRS within 30 days.

7. It is recommended that the Advisory Board as a whole body become more active in the conduct of the program, and that minutes be kept of all meetings. There was no documented evidence that such meetings had taken place. The task force feels that this group could contribute greatly to the development of new or more effective treatment techniques.

8. It is recommended that a Departmental review of the fiscal management of the program be accomplished. The scope of this investigation did not allow for a review of this facet of the program. The task force did hear several complaints regarding the fiscal practices of Straight, Inc.

9. It is recommended that the Board of Directors review the management practices of the Executive Director in light of the items mentioned in the conclusions of the task force. A written report of the results shall be submitted to the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, District V, within 30 days.

10. Due to the numerous allegations and complaints relative to the Staff Supervisor, it is recommended that the Board of Directors carefully evaluate her job performance and qualifications. A written report of such evaluation should be forwarded to the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, District V, within 45 days. The task force has a deep concern over the serious licensing implications raised by the allegations and complaints as they pertain to the staff supervisor. Allegations involved kicking clients, holding by hair, slapping clients, verbal abuse, inappropriate sex education, and that staff supervisor was unqualified. Staff under the supervision of this employee cut clients' hair without permission, required excessive running other unacceptable modes of discipline.

11. In light of the observations of the task force, it is recommended that a written policy be promulgated by the Board of Directors, limiting the number of clients being transported in one automobile to the normal capacity of the vehicle. In view of the task force's findings as related to foster home placement, it is also recommended that the Board of Directors review the foster home placement practices and develop a written policy to preclude overpopulating a foster home. This written policy should be made available to the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, District V, within 30 days.

12. In recognition of the limited food preparation facilities available, it is recommended that a nutritionist be consulted in order to assure maximum nutritional value of the meals furnished to the clients. These services are available through the Pinellas County Health Department and the Department of Agriculture Extension Service.

13. It is recommended that serious consideration be given to augmenting the paid treatment staff with another qualified professional person to insure professional coverage of the program activities at all times.

14. The task force received reports from most of the employees interviewed with confirmation from James Hartz, Executive Director, that most of them work sixty (60) hours per week, however, twenty (20) of these hours are on a "voluntary" basis. It is recommended that the existing practice of treatment staff "voluntarily" working up to sixty (60) hours per week be discontinued immediately in order to assure maximum efficiency from the staff.

15. It is recommended that the existing practice of treatment staff taking clients to their homes as newcomers be discontinued immediately. The task force was told several times that this was a practice and this practice can lead to serious complications for both clients and staff.