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Dr. Shirley Coletti, Founder of Operation PAR, Passed Away; Leaving a Legacy of Substance Use Advocacy, Treatment and Research Innovations

A Trailblazer in the Field of Addiction, Prevention and Human Service

PINELLAS PARK, Florida - Operation PAR, Inc., Dr. Shirley Coletti, founder of Operation PAR (Parental Awareness and Responsibility) and a tireless advocate for advancement in the treatment of substance use disorder, peacefully passed away on Saturday, June 22, 2024. Dr. Coletti distinguished herself as a leading advocate for the treatment of women with substance use disorder and their children and families. For over 35 years, she dedicated her life to serving others. Her vision, efforts, and personal commitment transformed Operation PAR from a grassroots organization into a comprehensive behavioral healthcare provider that serves thousands of families in West Central Florida. The research innovations developed at Operation PAR helped shape drug treatment, prevention policies, and evidence-based practices across the United States and the world.

Shirley Coletti was awarded an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters from the University of South Florida to honor her lifelong commitment and achievements. Dr. Coletti's expertise in the field was recognized nationally and internationally, with appointments by former Presidents Reagan and Bush.

Throughout her illustrious career, Shirley worked closely with prominent figures to advance the cause of addiction treatment and prevention. In the 1980s, she partnered with Nancy Reagan in the founding of the National Federation of Parents for Drug-Free Youth, a testament to her commitment to combating drug use on a national scale. Her influence continued into the 1990s, where she collaborated with the Bush family, earning an appointment in 1999 to the Statewide Drug Policy Advisory Council by Governor Jeb Bush.

In recognition of her transformative contributions to the state and its citizens in 2005, Florida Governor Jeb Bush nominated Dr. Coletti for the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. Shirley's induction into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame underscores her unwavering commitment and profound influence on addiction treatment, prevention, and human services in Florida and beyond.

Dr. Coletti's innovative spirit was evident in her dedication to research. She always looked to move the industry forward as a passionate advocate of new methodologies. Her work has left an indelible mark on the field and will continue to influence our practices for years to come.

Former CEOs Nancy Hamilton and Dianne Clarke together with current CEO Jim Miller, mourn the loss of their mentor, friend and guiding light. Jim Miller said, "Her relentless pursuit of excellence and her compassion for those we serve have set a standard that we continue to uphold. Shirley's passing is a tremendous loss for us

all, but her spirit and dedication to our mission will continue to guide us. We will ensure her vision for Operation PAR lives on, as we strive to carry forward her remarkable legacy.”

Operation PAR provides effective prevention, intervention, and treatment services to those impacted by substance use and mental health. Since 1970, Operation PAR has served thousands of adults, children, and their families annually in eight counties throughout West Central Florida. To learn more about Operation PAR visit our website at <https://www.operationpar.org/> or call our Access Center at 1-888-727-6398.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to Operation PAR, please visit: [In Memory of Shirley](#) and dedicate the donation in honor of Shirley or call (727) 545-7564 ext. 3286

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