



657 Newmark, Coos Bay, OR. 97420  
Office 541-888-8893 Fax 541-888-8444  
e-mail [starofhope@sohoregon.org](mailto:starofhope@sohoregon.org)  
[www.star-of-hope.com](http://www.star-of-hope.com)

Board Members

Francine Worthen – President  
Pacific Properties  
Coos Bay School Dist.- Retired

Patricia Johnson – Vice Pres.  
School Administrator – Retired  
with North Bend School  
District

Terry Edwards - Secretary  
E.L. Edwards Realty II, Inc.  
Broker, and Past Owner

James Adams - Treasurer  
Star of Hope  
Financial Director-Retired

Sheila Banks  
School Administrator  
South Coast E.S.D.—Retired

Doug Veysey  
Retired School Teacher and  
Track & Field Coach

Kim Brick  
Early Childhood Leader

Administration

LouAnn Dewater  
Executive Director

Danny Stoddard  
Director of Operations

Lisa Montez  
Sr. Residential Director

Kathy Upchurch  
Executive Assistant/HR

Theresa Collins  
Financial Director

Diane Johnson  
Director of Community Based  
Services

Garrett Sherrill  
Residential Director

Justin Taylor  
Director of Curry County  
Programs

Date: 02/07/2023

Good Morning,

My name is LouAnn Dewater and I am the Executive Director of Star of Hope Activity Center. Our agency began in 1964 by a grassroots movement of parents who wanted to see their children have the same opportunities as children without disabilities. We are located in Coos and Curry Counties and employ over 180 staff and support over 100 people daily diagnosed with an intellectual disability.

I am writing in support of HB 2457 that ensures that DSPs get the wages they deserve, by moving DSP wages to 150% of minimum wage and covers the Paid Leave Oregon Payroll Expense. The rise in rents and everyday necessities has risen to the point where our workforce are being driven away to look for other work. This in turn causes staff shortages that create additional health and safety risks. When agencies are understaffed and cannot meet the needs of those we support we see an increase in use of hospitals, mental health agencies, and our law enforcement. With the proper highly trained staffing levels the need for these services are decreased. The costs for the State of Oregon also decrease as the additional services are higher costs.

Please vote yes on HB 2457. DSPs, the people they support and their families are counting on your support!

Respectfully,

LouAnn Dewater

Executive Director

Star of Hope



