FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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| STATEMENT | OF ( | CHANGES | IN RENE | FICΙΔΙ | OWNERS | ΗΙΡ |
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|   | OMB Number:            | 3235-0287 |
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|   | hours per response:    | 0.5       |

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| Name and Address of Reporting Person*     Stauffer Joseph William                |  |  |                   |                              | 2. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol Cara Therapeutics, Inc. [ CARA ] |   |         |  |   |  |          |              |   | ationship of Reportir<br>all applicable)<br>Director<br>Officer (give title |   | 10%<br>Othe   | Owner<br>(specify  |   |    |
|--|--|--|-------------------|------------------------------|---|---|---------|--|---|--|----------|--------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|----|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O CARA THERAPEUTICS, INC., ONE PARROTT DRIVE           |  |  |                   |                              |   | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 08/04/2015   |         |  |   |  |          |              |   |   | Α   | belov   | ,  | belov<br>dical Officer  | v) |
| (Street) SHELTON CT 06484  (City) (State) (Zip)                                  |  |  |                   |                              | 4. If   | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)  6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)  X Form filed by One Reporting Person  Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |         |  |   |  |          |              |   |   | son   |   |  |   |    |
| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned |  |  |                   |                              |   |   |         |  |   |  |          |              |   |   |   |   |  |   |    |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transac Date (Month/Date)                    |  |  |                   |                              | Execution Date  |   | n Date, | Transaction Dice Code (Instr. 5)   |   | Disposed   | ·        |              |   | 4 and Secui<br>Benet  |   | cially<br>I Following   | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4)  | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |    |
|  |  |  |                   |                              |   |   |         | Code   | v | Amount   | (A<br>(I | A) or<br>O)  | Price   | •   |   | ction(s)<br>3 and 4)  |  |   |    |
| Common Stock 08/04   |  |  |                   | 08/04                        | 4/2015  |   |         |  | P |  | 2,000    |              | A \$18  |   | 8.6 13,442  |   | 3,442  | D   |    |
|  | Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |  |                   |                              |   |   |         |  |   |  |          |              |   |   |   |   |  |   |    |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)                              | rivative Conversion Date Execution Date, curity or Exercise (Month/Day/Year) if any  |  | Date,<br>ny/Year) | 4.<br>Transa<br>Code (<br>8) |   |   |         | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)  Date Expiration Date Exercisable |   | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. and 4)  Amount of Numbe of Shares |          | ount<br>nber | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) |   | 9. Number of<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction<br>(Instr. 4) | Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |   |    |

**Explanation of Responses:** 

Remarks:

/s/Darren DeStefano, Attorneyin-Fact 08/06/2015

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

- $^{\star}$  If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.