FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| STATEMENT | OF CHANGES | IN BENEFICIAL | OWNERSHIP |
|-----------|-------------------|---------------|------------------|

| OMB APPROVAL | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number: | 3235-0287 | | | | | | | | |
| Estimated average b | urden | | | | | | | | |
| 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

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* Ives Jeffrey L. (Last) (First) (Middle) | | | 3. E | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Cara Therapeutics, Inc. [CARA] 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | ck all applic Directo | able) | g Pers | 10% Ov Other (s | vner | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|------------|--------|--|--|-----------------------|--|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|----------------|--|--|
| ` ′ | ` | PEUTICS, INC. | ` ′ | | 06/ | 06/04/2020 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 STAMFORD PLAZA, 107 ELM STREET | | | _ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 4.1 | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) | | | | | | |
| (Street) | | | | | | | | | | | | | Form fi | Form filed by One Reporting Person | | | | | |
| STAMFORD CT 06902 | | | | | | | | | | | | | Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | | | |
| (City) | (S | tate) | (Zip) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transa Date (Month/D | | | | Execution Date, | | Code (| | 4. Securities Acquired (A) Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 5) | | | 5. Amou Securitie Beneficia Owned F | es Form ally (D) of Following (I) (II | | n: Direct r Indirect estr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Code | v | Amount | (A) or (D) Pr | | Price | Transact | Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | | | | |
| Common Stock 06/04/ | | | | 4/202 | /2020 | | A | | 7,200 | 0 ⁽¹⁾ A \$ | | \$0.00 | 13, | 13,200 | | D | | | |
| | Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | | 7. Title and Am of Securities Underlying Derivative Secu (Instr. 3 and 4) | | curity | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s (Instr. 4) | e S Illy | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
| | | | | | Code | v | (A) | | Date Exercisab | | expiration Pate | Title | or Nu of | mber ares | | | | | |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$15.62 | 06/04/2020 | | | A | | 10,800 | | (2) | 0 | 6/04/2030 | Commor Stock | 10 | ,800 | \$0.00 | 10,800 | 0 | D | |

Explanation of Responses:

- 1. Represents the number of shares underlying restricted stock units ("RSUs") granted to the Reporting Person pursuant to the Issuer's non-employee director compensation policy. Each RSU represents the contingent right to receive one share of common stock of the Issuer. The RSUs vest on the earlier of (i) June 4, 2021 and (ii) immediately prior to the Issuer's next annual meeting of stockholders following the grant date, in each case, subject to the Reporting Person's continued service as a director through such date.
- 2. This option was granted to the Reporting Person pursuant to the Issuer's non-employee director compensation policy. The shares underlying the option vest and become exercisable on the earlier of (i) June 4, 2021 and (ii) immediately prior to the Issuer's next annual meeting of stockholders following the grant date, in each case, subject to the Reporting Person's continued service as a director through such date.

Remarks:

<u>/s/Darren DeStefano, Attorney-in-Fact</u>

06/08/2020

** Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

- * 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.