FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

|   | OMB APPRO                | OVAL      |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|   | OMB Number:              | 3235-0287 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| l | Estimated average burden |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| l | 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

| l  | d Address of   | <u>Ca</u> | Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol     Cara Therapeutics, Inc. [ CARA ]      Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) |          |   |                 |   |        |  |                     | ck all app<br>Direc   | olicable)<br>ctor<br>er (give title |                       | Owner<br>(specify                            |   |   |  |     |  |
|--|--|-----------|--|----------|---|-----------------|---|--------|--|---------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|---|--|-----|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O CARA THERAPEUTICS, INC.  |  |           |  |          |   |                 | 12/01/2015  |        |  |                     |   |                                     |                       |  | VP  | -Research   | & Developme  | ent |  |
| 1 PARROTT DRIVE  |  |           |  |          |   |                 |   |        |  |                     |   |                                     |                       |  |   |   |  |     |  |
| (0)  |  |           |  |          |   |                 | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)  |        |  |                     |   |                                     |                       |  | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) |   |  |     |  |
| l ` ′  | (Street) SHELTON CT 06484  |           |  |          |   |                 |   |        |  |                     |   |                                     |                       | 2  | X Form filed by One Reporting Person                        |   |  |     |  |
|  |  |           |  |          |   |                 |   |        |  |                     |   |                                     |                       |  | Form filed by More than One Reporting<br>Person             |   |  |     |  |
| (City)   | (St  | ate) (2   | Zip)   |          |   |                 |   |        |  |                     |   |                                     |                       |  |   |   |  |     |  |
| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned   |  |           |  |          |   |                 |   |        |  |                     |   |                                     |                       |  |   |   |  |     |  |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transacti Date (Month/Day)   |  |           |  |          |   | Execution Date, |   |        |  |                     | es Acquired (A) o<br>Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 a  |                                     |                       | Secur<br>Benef                               | icially<br>d 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) or<br>(D) Pric   |                     | rice  | Trans                               | action(s)<br>3 and 4) |  | (mour 4)  |   |  |     |  |
| Common   | Stock  | 2015      |  |          | S <sup>(1)</sup>                        |                 | 6,000   | D \$10 |  | 16.21 <sup>(2</sup> | (2) 141,000   |                                     | 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)  | ivative Conversion Date Execution Date or Exercise (Month/Day/Year) if any |           |  | on Date, | 4.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8) |                 | 5. Number<br>of<br>Derivative<br>Securities<br>Acquired<br>(A) or<br>Disposed<br>of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4<br>and 5) |        | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) |                     | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative<br>Security (Instr.<br>and 4) |                                     | tr. 3                 | Price of<br>erivative<br>ecurity<br>estr. 5) |   | 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) |     |  |
|  |  |           |  |          | Code                                    | v               | (A)   | (D)    | Date<br>Exercis  | able                | Expiration<br>Date  | Title                               | of<br>Shar            | es   |   |   |  |     |  |

## Explanation of Responses:

- 1. This sale was effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the Reporting Person on June 1, 2015.
- 2. The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$16.01 \$16.57, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide to the Issuer, any security holder of the Issuer, or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the range set forth in footnote (2) to this Form 4.

## Remarks:

/s/Darren DeStefano, Attorneyin-Fact 12/03/2015

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Dat

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.