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FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b) |
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| Instruction 1(b). |
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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

| OMB APPROVAL | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
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| Estimated average burden | | | | | | | | | |
| hours per response: | 0.5 | | | | | | | | |

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person [*] Stauffer Joseph William | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Cara Therapeutics, Inc. [CARA] | (Check | tionship of Reporting Per all applicable) Director Officer (give title | son(s) to Issuer 10% Owner Other (specify | |
|--|---------------|----------------|---|------------------------|---|---|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O CARA THERAPEUTICS, INC., 4 STAMFORD PLAZA, 107 ELM ST, 9TH FLOOR | | ïC., | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 10/17/2018 | X | below) Chief Medical | below) | |
| (Street) STAMFORD (City) | CT (State) | 06902 (Zip) | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | 6. Indiv Line) X | idual or Joint/Group Filin Form filed by One Rep Form filed by More tha Person | orting Person | |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | | | 4. Securities Disposed Of | | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---|---|---|
| | | | Code | v | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | | (1130.4) |
| Common Stock | 10/17/2018 | | S ⁽¹⁾ | | 10,472 | D | \$20.08(2) | 2,970 | D | |
| Common Stock | 10/17/2018 | | S ⁽¹⁾ | | 970 | D | \$20.69 ⁽³⁾ | 2,000 | 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. Transa Code (8) | | of Deriv Secur Acqu (A) or Dispo of (D) (Instr | 5. Number of Expiration Date Derivative Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | ate | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---|---|--|---|------------------------------|---|---|--|---------------------|--------------------|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | Code | v | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

1. These sales were effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the Reporting Person on September 7, 2018.

2. The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$19.60 - \$20.59, 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 ranges set forth in this footnote to this Form 4.

3. The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$20.60 - \$20.75, 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 ranges set forth in this footnote to this Form 4.

Remarks:

/s/Darren DeStefano, Attorney-10/19/2018

<u>in-Fact</u>

** 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.