

Stauffer Joseph William
 Form 4
 March 13, 2018

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 Stauffer Joseph William

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O CARA THERAPEUTICS,
 INC., 4 STAMFORD PLAZA, 107
 ELM ST, 9TH FLOOR

(Street)

STAMFORD, CT 06902

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 Cara Therapeutics, Inc. [CARA]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
 03/09/2018

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

___ Director ___ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below)
 Chief Medical Officer

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 ___ Form filed by More than One Reporting 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)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)		
				(A) or (D)	Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative	2. Conversion	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if	4. Transaction	5. Number of Derivative	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities
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Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 3 and 4)			Amount or Number of Shares
							Code	V	
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 14.39	03/09/2018	A	57,750	<u>(1)</u>	03/09/2028	Common Stock	57,750	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Stauffer Joseph William
 C/O CARA THERAPEUTICS, INC.,
 4 STAMFORD PLAZA, 107 ELM ST, 9TH FLOOR
 STAMFORD, CT 06902

Chief Medical Officer

Signatures

/s/Darren DeStefano, 03/13/2018
 Attorney-in-Fact

__Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

* 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).

The shares shall vest and become exercisable in a series of 48 successive equal monthly installments beginning on April 9, 2018, in each case subject to the Reporting Person's Continuous service (as that term is defined in the Issuer's 2014 Equity Incentive Plan) as of each such date.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.