FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

| Washington, | DC | 20549 | |
|-------------|------|-------|--|
| wasinigton, | D.C. | 20343 | |

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

| | OMB APPRO | VAL |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|
| I | OMB Number: | 3235-0287 |
| | Estimated average burden | |
| | 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* SMITH WAYNE T | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS INC CYH] | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| (Last) 4000 MEF | ast) (First) (Middle) 000 MERIDIAN BOULEVARD | | | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 09/30/2023 | | | | | | | | Officer (give title Other (specify below) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) | | | | | | |
| (Street) | IN Tì | N | 37067 | - | 4. If Am | nendment, D | ate of | Original Fil | ed (N | Ionth/Day/\ | Year) | | 6. Indiv | Form filed | by One | Reportir | | | |
| | | | | l | Rule | 10b5-1 | (c) | Transa | ctio | n Indic | ation | | | | | | | | |
| (City) | (SI | tate) | (Zip) | | ☐ Ch | | o indica | ate that a tra | nsacti | on was mad | e pursuant | to a c 10. | ontract, instr | ruction or writt | en plan th | at is inte | nded to satis | fy the | |
| | | | Table I - Noi | n-Deriv | ative | Securitie | s Ac | quired, | Disp | osed of | f, or Be | nefic | cially Ov | vned | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Trai | | | | | | Date, | ate, Transaction Code (Instr. | | 4. Securities Acquired (A) o Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 a | | | and 5) Securities Beneficially Following F | | 6. Own Form: (D) or I (I) (Inst | Direct I ndirect I r. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Code | v | Amount | (A) (D) | or | Price | Transaction (Instr. 3 and | | | | Instr. 4) | |
| Common S | Stock | | | | | | | | | | | | | 4,107, | 901 | | D | | |
| Common S | Stock | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1,606, | 842 | | I 1 | oy The Modified 2009 WTS Irrev Trust Dated | |
| Common S | Stock | | | | | | | | | | | | | 481,721 | | | | WAC LLC | |
| | | | Table II - | Derivat | ive S | ecurities | Aca | uired. D | icno | sed of | or Bene | efici | ally Owi | ned | | | | | |
| | | | | (e.a p | uts. c | | warrants, op umber of ivative urities urited (A) or losed of (D) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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/Yea | 4. Trans | action (Instr. | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A | of A) or | | S, Co ercisa Date | onvertib | | nd Am s Und e Sec | ount of lerlying | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Numb derivativ Securiti Benefici Owned Followir Reporte | ve es ially ng | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| Derivative Security | Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative | Date | 3A. Deemed Execution Date if any | 4. Trans | action (Instr. | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (AD Disposed of Unstr. 3, 4 a | of A) or of (D) | 6. Date Exe Expiration | S, Co ercisa Date Date y/Year | onvertib | 7. Title ar Securities | nd Am s Und e Sec und 4) | ount of lerlying | 8. Price of Derivative Security | derivativ Securiti Benefic Owned Followir | ve es ially ng ed etion(s) | Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect | of Indirect Beneficial Ownership | |
| Derivative Security | Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative | Date | 3A. Deemed Execution Date if any | 4. Trans Code 8) | action (Instr. | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (ADisposed of (Instr. 3, 4 ad 5) | of A) or of (D) | 6. Date Exe Expiration (Month/Day | S, Co ercisa Date Date y/Year | onvertib | 7. Title ar Securitie: Derivative (Instr. 3 a | aritie nd Am s Und e Sec and 4) | es) nount of erlying urity ount or mber of | 8. Price of Derivative Security | derivativ Securiti Benefici Owned Followin Reporte Transac | ve es ially ng ed etion(s) | Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect | of Indirect Beneficial Ownership | |
| Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date if any | 4. Trans Code 8) | action (Instr. | 5. Number Derivative Securities Acquired (ADisposed of (Instr. 3, 4 and 1) | of A) or of (D) | 6. Date Exe Expiration (Month/Day | S, Co ercisa Date Date y/Year | onvertib ble and r) Expiration Date | 7. Title ar Securitie: Derivative (Instr. 3 a | Am Nur Sha | es) nount of lerlying urity ount or mber of ares | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | derivativ Securiti Benefici Owned Followir Reporte Transac (Instr. 4) | ve es ially ng id ition(s) | Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | of Indirect Beneficial Ownership | |
| Derivative Security (Instr. 3) Stock Units (SU) Performance Based | Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date if any | 4. Trans Code 8) | action (Instr. | 5. Number Derivative Securities Acquired (ADisposed of (Instr. 3, 4 and 1) | of A) or of (D) | Date Exercisable | S, Co ercisa Date Date y/Year | ble and r) Expiration Date (1) | 7. Title ar Securitie Derivative (Instr. 3 a | Am Nur Sha | es) nount of lerlying urity ount or mber of ares | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | derivativ Securiti Benefici Owned Followir Reporte Transac (Instr. 4) | ve es ially ng dd ction(s) | Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | of Indirect Beneficial Ownership | |
| Derivative Security (Instr. 3) Stock Units (SU) Performance Based Performance Based | Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security \$0.00 | Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date if any | 4. Trans Code 8) | action (Instr. | 5. Number Derivative Securities Acquired (ADisposed of (Instr. 3, 4 and 1) | of A) or of (D) | e, option 6. Date Exc Expiration (Month/Date Date Exercisabl (1) | S, Co ercisa Date Date y/Year | onvertib ble and r) Expiration Date | 7. Title ar Securitie Derivative (Instr. 3 a Title Common Stock Common Common Stock Common Comm | Am Nur Sha | ount or mber of ares 206.897 | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | derivating Securiti Securiti Securiti Securiti Senefici Owned Followin Reporte Transac (Instr. 4) | ve es es ially ng sd ction(s)) | Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | of Indirect Beneficial Ownership | |
| Derivative Security (Instr. 3) Stock Units (SU) Performance Based Restricted Performance Based Restricted | Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security \$0.00 \$0.00 | Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date if any | 4. Trans Code 8) | action (Instr. | 5. Number Derivative Securities Acquired (ADisposed of (Instr. 3, 4 and 1) | of A) or of (D) | pate Exercisabl (1) (2) | S, Co ercisa Date Date y/Year | Expiration cate (1) (2) (3) | 7. Title ar Securitie: Derivativ (Instr. 3 a Title Common Stock Common Stock Common Stock Common Stock | Am Nursham 11, | ount or other of ares ares ares ares ares ares are as a so,000 | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | derivatii Securiti Securiti Securiti Senefici Owned Followiii Reporte Transac (Instr. 4) | ve es ially ng dd dition(s)) 5.914 0000 0000 | Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | of Indirect Beneficial Ownership | |
| Stock Units (SU) Performance Based Restricted Performance Based Restricted Restricted Restricted Restricted Restricted | Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security \$0.00 \$0.00 | Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date if any | 4. Trans Code 8) | action (Instr. | 5. Number Derivative Securities Acquired (ADisposed of (Instr. 3, 4 and 1) | of A) or of (D) | Date Exercisabl (1) (2) (3) | S, CC ercisa Date y/Year | Expiration Date (1) (2) (3) (4) | Title Common Stock Common Stock Common Stock Common | Am Num Sha | ount or | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | derivati Securiti Benefici Owned Followin Reporte Transac (Instr. 4) | ve es | Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | of Indirect Beneficial Ownership | |
| Stock Units (SU) Performance Based Restricted Restricted Restricted Restricted Stock Units Stock Units Restricted Stock Units | \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 | Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date if any | 4. Trans Code 8) | action (Instr. | 5. Number Derivative Securities Acquired (ADisposed of (Instr. 3, 4 and 1) | of A) or of (D) | Date Exercisable (1) (3) (4) | S, C(C) Services and Control of the | convertible ble and c) Expiration (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) | 7. Title ar Securities Derivative (Instr. 3 a securities Derivative (Instr. 3 a securities Common Stock Common Common Stock Common Comm | Ammunishman 11, | ount or her of ares ares ares ares ares ares are | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | derivatis Securiti Benefic Owned Followin Reporte Transac (Instr. 4) 25,225 180,0 180,0 | ve es state of the | Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | of Indirect Beneficial Ownership | |
| Stock Units (SU) Performance Based Restricted Performance Based Restricted Restricted Stock Units Restricted Stock Units Stock Options (Right to Buy) Stock Options (Right to Buy) | Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 | Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date if any | 4. Trans Code 8) | action (Instr. | 5. Number Derivative Securities Acquired (ADisposed of (Instr. 3, 4 and 1) | of A) or of (D) | Date Exercisabl (3) (4) (5) | S, C(Cercisa Date Date Date Date Date Date Date Dat | envertibble and r) Expiration Date (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) | 7. Title ar Securitie Derivative (Instr. 3 a Title Common Stock Common | Am Nur Sha | ount or herelying urity ount or mber of ares ,206.897 80,000 80,000 29,268 43,089 78,750 | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | derivati Securiti Benefici Owned Followin Reporte Transac (Instr. 4) 25,225 180,0 29,2 43,0 | ve es state of the control of the co | Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | of Indirect Beneficial Ownership | |

Explanation of Responses:

- 1. The Stock Units were accrued under the Company's Directors' Fees Deferral Plan in lieu of a portion of the Reporting Person's Director Fees and are settled 100% in the Company's common stock on the last business day of the calendar quarter following cessation as a director or upon a date specified by the Reporting Person.
- 2. The vesting of these performance-based restricted shares is subject to the attainment of certain performance objectives between 1/1/2021 and 12/31/2023 (the "2021-2023 Performance Period"). The target number (100%) of the total performance-based restricted shares is reported in the table set forth above. Between 0% and 200% of the portion of the target number of performance-based restricted shares allocated to each applicable performance objective will ultimately vest on the third anniversary of the date of grant, subject to the attainment of the applicable performance objective, with the vesting percentage to be determined based upon the level of achievement with respect to the applicable performance objective during the 2021-2023 Performance Period.
- 3. The vesting of these performance-based restricted shares is subject to the attainment of certain performance objectives between 1/1/2022 and 12/31/2024 (the "2022-2024 Performance Period"). The target number (100%) of the total performance-based restricted shares is reported in the table set forth above. Between 0% and 200% of the portion of the target number of performance-based restricted shares allocated to each applicable

performance objective will ultimately vest on the third anniversary of the date of grant, subject to the attainment of the applicable performance objective, with the vesting percentage to be determined based upon the level of achievement with respect to the applicable performance objective during the 2022-2024 Performance Period.

- 4. The restricted stock units vest in 1/3 increments on the first, second and third anniversary of the date of grant. Based on the Reporting Person's prior deferral election pursuant to the terms of the award agreement, the Reporting Person will be issued that number of shares of common stock of the Company upon the Reporting Person's cessation as a director or upon a date specified by the Reporting Person.
- 5. The restricted stock units, which were granted as payment of the Reporting Person's additional annual stipend for serving as the Chair of the Board, vest in 1/3 increments on the first, second and third anniversary of the date of grant. Based on the Reporting Person's prior deferral election pursuant to the terms of the award agreement, the Reporting Person will be issued that number of shares of common stock of the Company upon the Reporting Person's cessation as a director or upon a date specified by the Reporting Person.

6. Vesting occurs in 1/3 increments on the first, second and third anniversary of the date of grant.

Remarks:

<u>Christopher G. Cobb, Attorney in</u> <u>Fact for Wayne T. Smith</u> 10/02/2023

** 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.

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned officer and/or director (herein, the Filer) of COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC., (the Company) hereby constitutes and appoints each of JUSTIN D. PITT, KEVIN J. HAMMONS, CHRISTOPHER G. COBB and CAROL R. CLIFTON, signing singly, the Filer's true and lawful attorney-in-fact to: 1. execute for and on behalf of the Filer, a FORM ID (or any such form as may be adopted) for the purpose of obtaining on behalf of Filer, a CIK, CCC and other filing codes and related items from the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) as necessary to permit each such Filer to make filings on the SECs Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis and Retrieval system, and to perform all acts necessary in order to obtain such codes and related items as he or she shall deem appropriate; 2. execute for and on behalf of the Filer, in the Filers capacity as an officer and/or director of the Company, Forms 3, 4, and 5 in accordance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules thereunder; 3. execute for and on behalf of the Filer, in the Filer's capacity as an officer and/or director of the Company one or more notices on Form 144 relating to any orders or instructions to sell securities of the Company in accordance with Rule 144 under the Securities Act of 1933 and the rules thereunder; 4. do and perform any and all acts for and on behalf of the Filer which may be necessary or desirable to complete and execute any such Form 3, 4, 5, or 144 complete and execute any amendment or amendments thereto, and timely file such form with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and any stock exchange or similar authority; and 5. take any other action of any type whatsoever in connection with the foregoing which, in the opinion of such attorney-in-fact, may be of benefit to, in the best interest of, or legally required by the Filer in his or her capacity as an officer and/or director of the Company, it being understood that the documents executed by such attorney-in-fact on behalf of the Filer pursuant to this Power of Attorney shall be in such form and shall contain such terms and conditions as such attorney-in-fact may approve in such attorney-in-fact's discretion. The Filer hereby grants to each such attorney-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform any and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary, or proper to be done in the exercise of any of the rights and powers herein granted, as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution or revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all that such attorney-in-fact, or such attorney-in-fact's substitute or substitutes, shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this power of attorney and the rights and powers herein granted. The Filer acknowledges that the foregoing attorneys-in-fact, in serving in such capacity at the request of the Filer, are not assuming, nor is the Company assuming, any of the Filers responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Rule 144 of the Securities Act of 1933. This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until the Filer is no longer required to file Forms 3, 4, 5, or 144 with respect to the Filer's holdings of and transactions in securities issued by the Company, unless earlier revoked by the Filer in a signed writing delivered to the foregoing attorneys-in-fact. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Filer has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 13th day of September, 2023. /s/ Wayne T. Smith Wayne T. Smith

POWER OF ATTORNEY