

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

FORM 8-K

**CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (date of earliest event reported): December 8, 2021 (December 7, 2021)

COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

001-15925
(Commission
File Number)

13-3893191
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

**4000 Meridian Boulevard
Franklin, Tennessee 37067**
(Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (615) 465-7000

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value	CYH	New York Stock Exchange

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR §230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR §240.12b-2).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

Retirement of Benjamin C. Fordham as Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of the Company

On December 8, 2021, Community Health Systems, Inc. (the “Company”) issued a press release announcing that Benjamin C. Fordham, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Assistant Secretary, will retire as an officer of the Company effective at the end of February 2022. Mr. Fordham informed the Company’s Board of Directors of his retirement on December 7, 2021. It is anticipated that, upon his retirement, Mr. Fordham will enter into a consulting agreement with the Company, pursuant to which he will advise the Company’s management team on legal matters as requested by the Chief Executive Officer. A copy of the press release making this announcement is attached as [Exhibit 99.1](#) to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference into this Item 5.02.

Intent to Appoint Justin D. Pitt as General Counsel of the Company

In conjunction with Mr. Fordham’s retirement, the Company intends to appoint Justin D. Pitt as General Counsel effective March 1, 2022.

Mr. Pitt, age 46, has served as the Company’s Senior Vice President and Chief Litigation Counsel since May 2017. In that role, he serves as the Company’s primary counsel for litigation, managed care, reimbursement and other legal matters and also oversees the operations of the legal and government relations departments. He joined the Company as Litigation Counsel in 2009 after several years of private practice as a litigator and lobbyist to the Tennessee General Assembly. Pitt serves as a member of the American Health Lawyers Association and on the Federation of American Hospitals’ Medicaid and Managed Care Committee. He is a Fellow of the Nashville Health Care Council and a member of the Leaders Council of the Legal Services Corporation, the largest funder of civil legal aid for low income Americans in the United States. Pitt also serves on the boards of non-profit organization including One Willco and The Village at Glencliff, which provides medical respite and bridge housing for those experiencing homelessness. He received his law degree, Order of the Coif, from Washington University School of Law, where he was a William Webster Fellow.

Mr. Pitt is not a party to any material plan, contract or arrangement with the Company entered into in connection with his upcoming appointment, and Mr. Pitt’ compensation as General Counsel has not yet been determined.

A copy of the press release related to Mr. Pitt’s appointment as the Company’s General Counsel is attached hereto as [Exhibit 99.1](#) and incorporated by reference into this Item 5.02.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

The following exhibit is incorporated herein by reference:

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Community Health Systems, Inc. Press Release dated December 8, 2021.
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (embedded within the Inline XBRL document).

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: December 8, 2021

COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Tim L. Hingtgen
Tim L. Hingtgen
Chief Executive Officer
(principal executive officer)



COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS ANNOUNCES THAT BEN FORDHAM, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, GENERAL COUNSEL AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY, WILL RETIRE IN FEBRUARY 2022

FRANKLIN, Tenn.- (December 8, 2021) - Community Health Systems, Inc. (NYSE: CYH) announced today that Ben Fordham, Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Assistant Secretary, will retire at the end of February 2022. Fordham joined the Company in 2007 and has served as General Counsel and Assistant Secretary to the Board of Directors since early 2017. Upon his retirement, Fordham is expected to enter into a consulting agreement with the Company under which he will advise the Company's management team on legal matters as requested by the Company's Chief Executive Officer.

Justin D. Pitt, currently Senior Vice President and Chief Litigation Counsel, will be appointed General Counsel upon Fordham's retirement. Pitt joined the Company in 2009 and now serves as primary counsel for litigation, managed care, reimbursement and other legal matters, and also oversees the operations of the legal and government relations departments.

Commenting on today's announcement Tim L. Hingtgen, Chief Executive Officer of Community Health Systems, Inc., said, "Ben is a brilliant legal strategist who has provided expert counsel over 14 years of service to Community Health Systems. His deep knowledge of the law, sound judgment, and commitment to integrity and ethical operations have helped guide our organization through significant changes in our industry, major shifts in health policy, complex legal matters, and transactions that have reshaped our portfolio. Ben has cultivated an excellent team of in-house lawyers and has collaborated closely with Justin for many years, ensuring a smooth and effective transition of leadership. We look forward to wishing Ben well in his retirement and to thanking him for being a collaborative, consistent leader for our Company."

Hingtgen added, "Community Health Systems will be in good hands with Justin at the helm of our legal department. Justin is an exceptional attorney who is highly regarded by our Board of Directors, management team, and colleagues across the organization. He is an energetic and influential leader who already has spent more than a decade managing legal matters for our company and who has developed a keen understanding of our business objectives and vision for the future. Justin also is a community leader who serves on the boards of non-profit organizations and a tireless champion of promoting diversity and advancing health equity. We are pleased that we will continue to benefit from Justin's expertise as he assumes the role of General Counsel next year."

Prior to joining Community Health Systems, Pitt spent several years in private practice as a litigator and lobbyist to the Tennessee General Assembly. Pitt serves as a member of the American Health Lawyers Association and on the Federation of American Hospitals' Medicaid and Managed Care Committee. Pitt is a Fellow of the Nashville Health Care Council and a member of the Leaders Council of the Legal Services Corporation, the largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans in the United States. Pitt also serves on the boards of non-profit organizations including One Willco and The Village at Glenclyff, which provides medical respite and bridge housing for those experiencing homelessness. Pitt received his undergraduate degree, cum laude, from Carson Newman College and his law degree, Order of the Coif, from Washington University in St. Louis, where he was a William Webster Fellow.

Fordham's retirement will culminate a distinguished legal career spanning nearly 45 years. Before joining Community Health Systems, Fordham spent three decades in private practice specializing in litigation, mergers and acquisitions, general business and health law. He joined Community Health Systems as Vice President and Senior Litigation Counsel in 2007, was promoted to Chief Litigation Counsel in 2011, Senior Vice President in 2014, and Executive Vice President and General Counsel in 2017. Fordham received his undergraduate degree, magna cum laude, from Duke University while attending on a football scholarship. He received his law degree from Vanderbilt University where he was a Patrick Wilson Merit Scholar.

About Community Health Systems, Inc.

Community Health Systems, Inc. is one of the largest publicly traded hospital companies in the United States and a leading operator of general acute care hospitals in communities across the country. The Company, through its subsidiaries, owns or leases 83 affiliated hospitals in 16 states with an aggregate of approximately 13,000 licensed beds. Healthcare services are also provided in more than 1,000 outpatient sites of care including affiliated physician practices, urgent care centers, freestanding emergency departments, imaging centers, cancer centers, and ambulatory surgery centers. The Company's headquarters are located in Franklin, Tennessee, a suburb south of Nashville. Shares in Community Health Systems, Inc. are traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "CYH." More information about the Company can be found on its website at www.chs.net.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 that involve risk and uncertainties. Actual future events or results may differ materially from these statements. Readers are referred to the documents filed by Community Health Systems, Inc. with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Company's annual report on Form 10-K, current reports on Form 8-K and quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. These filings identify important risk factors and other uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ from those contained in the forward-looking statements. The Company undertakes no obligation to revise or update any forward-looking statements, or to make any other forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

Investor Contacts:

Kevin Hammons, 615-465-7000
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
or
Ross W. Comeaux, 615-465-7012
Vice President – Investor Relations

Media Contact:

Tomi Galin, 615-628-6607
Senior Vice President, Corporate
Communications, Marketing and Public Affairs

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