

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

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

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0287
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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Smith Martin Dewayne</u>			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS INC [ CYH ]</u>			5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Division Pres.; Division Ops</u>		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>12/10/2008</u>			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		
4000 MERIDIAN BLVD			4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)					
(Street) <u>FRANKLIN TN 37067</u>								
(City) (State) (Zip)								

**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 Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	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			
Common Stock	12/10/2008		A		10,000	A	\$0.00	22,834	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. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		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					
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$27.7							05/21/2003	05/21/2012	Common Stock	2,000	2,000	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$20.3							05/22/2004	05/22/2013	Common Stock	10,000	10,000	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$20.3							05/22/2004	05/22/2013	Common Stock	2,000	2,000	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$25.7							12/09/2004	12/09/2013	Common Stock	5,000	5,000	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$25.13							05/25/2005	05/25/2014	Common Stock	2,000	2,000	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$32.37							02/28/2006	02/28/2013	Common Stock	5,000	5,000	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$38.3							03/01/2007	03/01/2014	Common Stock	3,000	3,000	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$37.21							02/28/2008	02/28/2015	Common Stock	1,500	1,500	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$32.28							02/27/2009	02/27/2018	Common Stock	1,500	1,500	D	
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$40.41							07/25/2008	07/25/2015	Common Stock	8,000	8,000	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. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		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				
Stock Options (Right to Buy)	\$15.11	12/10/2008		A		10,000		12/10/2009 <sup>(1)</sup>	12/10/2018	Common Stock	10,000	\$0.00	10,000	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

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

**Remarks:**

Rachel A. Seifert, Attorney in  
Fact for Martin D. Smtih      12/11/2008

\*\* 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.**