

COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS INC

Form 8-K

February 29, 2008

**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
February 29, 2008 (February 27, 2008)**
Date of Report (date of earliest event reported)
COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

001-15925
(Commission File Number)

13-3893191
(I.R.S. 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 (see General Instruction A.2. below):

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

On February 27, 2008, the Board of Directors of Community Health Systems, Inc. (the Company), upon recommendation of the Compensation Committee of the Board, met and approved certain compensation arrangements for the Company's Named Executive Officers. The Company's Named Executive Officers are each employees of the Company's wholly-owned subsidiary, Community Health Systems Professional Services Corporation, and receive no compensation for their services as an officer of the Company. The following arrangements were approved:

Incentive Compensation Payments for 2007 under the 2004 Employee Performance Incentive Plan

The following payments in respect of 2007 incentive compensation targets, under the Company's 2004 Employee Performance Incentive Plan (the Cash Incentive Plan) were approved, the Named Executive Officers having been found to have met only certain levels of their performance goals, as indicated:

Name and Position	Percentage of Total Target Opportunity Attained	2007 Incentive Compensation Payment
Wayne T. Smith, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer	76%	\$1,416,915
W. Larry Cash, Director, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	77%	\$ 643,356
David L. Miller, Division President, Group Operations	59%	\$ 227,890
Gary D. Newsome, Division President, Group Operations	59%	\$ 227,890
Michael T. Portacci, Division President, Group Operations	82%	\$ 315,126

The Compensation Committee has also established performance goals for each of the Named Executive Officers for fiscal year 2008 under the Cash Incentive Plan.

2008 Base Salaries

The following base salary amounts for the Company's Named Executive Officers were approved on February 27, 2008, to be effective retroactive to January 1, 2008. None of our executive officers has a written employment agreement.

Name and Position	2008 Base Salary
Wayne T. Smith, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer	\$1,080,000
W. Larry Cash, Director, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	\$ 664,000

Name and Position	2008 Base Salary
David L. Miller, Division President, Group Operations	\$450,000
Gary D. Newsome, Division President, Group Operations	\$450,000
Michael T. Portacci, Division President, Group Operations	\$450,000

Option Grants and Restricted Stock Awards

Pursuant to the Company's Amended and Restated 2000 Stock Option and Award Plan (the Plan), the Compensation Committee approved the following equity grants to its Named Executive Officers:

Name and Position	Non-Qualified Stock Options	Performance Based Restricted Shares
Wayne T. Smith, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer	200,000	100,000
W. Larry Cash, Director, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	60,000	60,000
David L. Miller, Division President, Group Operations	20,000	35,000
Gary D. Newsome, Division President, Group Operations	20,000	35,000
Michael T. Portacci, Division President, Group Operations	20,000	35,000
All other executive officers as a group (70,000 of the restricted shares awarded were performance based, the balance, 44,000 shares, were granted with 3-year time vesting restrictions only)	57,500	114,000

The grants of nonqualified stock options will vest in equal one-third increments on the first three anniversaries of the grant date. The performance based restricted stock awards will be subject first to the attainment of a performance based objective that must be met, and then once met, the award is subject to further time vesting. Generally, the performance objective is the Company's attainment for calendar year 2008 of either (i) seventy-five percent (75%) or more of the low end of the range of projected earnings per share from continuing operations, or (ii) ninety percent (90%) or more of the low end of the range of net operating revenues, each as stated in the Company's earnings release filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Form 8-K on February 21, 2008. If the performance objective is not attained, the awards will be forfeited in their entirety. Once the performance objective has been attained, restrictions will lapse in one-third (1/3) increments on each of the first three anniversaries of the award date. Notwithstanding the performance objectives and the vesting requirements set forth in the Form Agreement, the restrictions will lapse earlier in the event of the death, disability or termination of employment, without cause, of the grantee, or in the event of a change in control of the Company. The form of performance based restricted stock award agreement is substantially the same as the form of agreement utilized for awards made in February 2007, which

was included as an Exhibit to Form 8-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 2, 2007.

Item 5.03 Amendments to Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws; Change in Fiscal Year.

On February 27, 2008, the Board of Directors of the Company, amended its bylaws to provide for a majority voting standard in the election of directors in uncontested elections. The Amended and Restated By-Laws of the Company are included with this Form 8-K as Exhibit 3(ii).1. The Company also adopted a policy, set forth in its Governance Guidelines, which provides for the submission to the Board of Directors of a letter of resignation by any director who receives more against votes than for votes in such an election. The Company's Governance Guidelines are set forth on the Investor Relations section of our website, located at www.chs.net/investor.relations.

ITEM 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

Exhibit 3(ii).1 Amended and Restated By-Laws of Community Health Systems, Inc. (as of February 27, 2008)

SIGNATURES

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 thereunto duly authorized.

Date: February 29, 2008

COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Wayne T. Smith
Wayne T. Smith
Chairman of the Board,
President and Chief Executive Officer
(principal executive officer)

By: /s/ W. Larry Cash
W. Larry Cash
Executive Vice President, Chief
Financial
Officer and Director
(principal financial officer)