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): October 24, 2005

KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC.

 $(Exact\ name\ of\ registrant\ as\ specified\ in\ its\ charter)$

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of

001-14057 (Commission File Number) 61-1323993 (IRS Employer

incorporation or organization)

Identification No.)

680 South Fourth Street

Louisville, Kentucky

(Address of principal executive offices)

40202-2412

(Zip Code)

Registrant s telephone number, including area code: (502) 596-7300

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation to 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))

Item 1.01 Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

On October 24, 2005, Kindred Healthcare, Inc. (the Company) announced that certain of its subsidiaries signed a definitive agreement (the Agreement) to acquire the operations of the long-term acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities operated by Commonwealth Communities Holdings LLC and certain of its affiliates for a total purchase price of \$125 million in cash.

The transaction is subject to several regulatory approvals and other conditions to closing, including the expiration of the waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvement Act of 1976, as amended.

The foregoing description of the Agreement does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Agreement, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 2.1 hereto and is incorporated in this report by reference. Exhibit 2.1 includes a descriptive list of omitted disclosure schedules and exhibits to the Agreement. A copy of such schedules and exhibits shall be furnished supplementally to the Securities and Exchange Commission upon its request.

Cautionary Statements

The Agreement has been included to provide investors with information regarding its terms. Except for their status as the contractual documents that establish and govern the legal relations among the parties thereto with respect to the transactions described above, the Agreement is not intended to be a source of factual, business or operational information about the parties.

The representations, warranties and covenants made by the parties in the Agreement are qualified, including by information in the schedules referenced in the Agreement that the parties delivered in connection with the execution of the Agreement. Representations and warranties may be used as a tool to allocate risks between the respective parties to the Agreement, including where the parties do not have complete knowledge of all facts, instead of establishing these matters as facts. Furthermore, they may be subject to standards of materiality applicable to the contracting parties, which may differ from those applicable to investors. These representations and warranties may or may not have been accurate as of any specific date and do not purport to be accurate as of the date of this filing. Accordingly, they should not be relied upon as statements of factual information.

Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.

Incorporated by reference is a press release issued by the Company on October 24, 2005, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1. This information is being furnished under Item 7.01 and shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act, or otherwise subject to the liability of such section.

Item 9.01.

(c) Exhibits

Exhibit 2.1. Purchase and Sale Agreement by and among those entities listed on <u>Schedule P</u> thereto as buying entities (individually and collectively, Buyer), those entities listed <u>on Schedule P</u> thereto as selling entities (Sellers) and Jeffrey A. Goldshine, Douglas B. Noble, and MaryCatherine Rumsey (Signatory Owners), and solely for purposes of Article III thereof and the Guaranty, Kindred Healthcare Operating, Inc. (Buyer Guarantor).

Exhibit 99.1 Press release dated October 24, 2005.

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 hereto duly authorized.

Date: October 25, 2005 By: /s/ Richard A. Lechleiter

Richard A. Lechleiter Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer