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): May 8, 2006

KINDRED HEALTHCARE, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction

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

of incorporation or organization)

Number) 680 South Fourth Street **Identification No.)**

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)

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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:

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

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Item 8.01. Other Events.

Incorporated by reference is a press release issued by Kindred Healthcare, Inc. on May 8, 2006, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 9.01.

(c) Exhibits

Exhibit 99.1 Press release dated May 8, 2006.

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: May 9, 2006

By: /s/ Richard A. Lechleiter
Richard A. Lechleiter

Executive Vice President and

Chief Financial Office

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