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### **Child Protection Services**

The Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children offers services including:

- A child-friendly environment
- A private waiting area
- Personalized, age-appropriate exam education and preparation
- A comprehensive medical history and examination conducted in a comfortable environment by a forensic physician or nurse practitioner
- Colposcopic exams for detailed photographic documentation
- Recorded forensic interviews
- Second-opinion consultations
- Expert witness testimony
- Referrals for counseling
- Professional training
- Community education and prevention programs
- Multidisciplinary team meetings for case coordination

#### **Meet Bella**

Bella is our newest addition to the Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children and the first therapy dog for a child advocacy center in the state. Bella's job is to help build rapport with the patient and let children and families know they are in a safe place.

She can help reduce anxiety, stress and fear associated with a forensic interview and medical exam. Bella can also help build self-esteem and a feeling of control when the child gets her to do tricks. She will eventually also be in the room during interviews, which may help the child disclose abuse or neglect by being able to tell Bella instead of the interviewer.

