

The Inter-Mountain

Good Things

Good things are happening at Elkins Rehabilitation & Care Center.

The facility celebrated another milestone Wednesday, cutting the ribbon for the center's new rehabilitation unit. The 10,000-square-foot expansion includes 14 private suites, a state-of-the-art rehabilitation gymnasium, a spa and an Internet cafe.

This is the latest in a long line of improvements made at the Elkins facility, which continues to offer exquisite care through a highly trained and knowledgeable staff.

In addition, officials announced a new initiative that offered personalized music as part of therapy plans.

The program, which started in October, makes ERCC the first Music & Memory facility in West Virginia.

The certification ensures families their loved ones will have access to the transformative therapeutic benefits of personalized music. The new program is consistent with the facility's commitment to person-centered care.

ERCC Executive Director Denise Campbell touted the program and its benefits.

“We try to – as much as we can – deinstitutionalize what we do here and sometimes that's hard because the facts are the facts, it is a facility but we

try as hard as we can to make it as home-like and personal (as possible) for each resident that's here.”

The Music & Memory program was founded in 2006 by Dan Cohen.

According to the program's website, decades of neuroscience research about the brain-music connection have built a strong case for the ways that familiar music associated with significant personal memories can help dementia patients reconnect with the world.

Campbell said the focus of the program initially will be in the facility's dementia unit.

“Our ultimate goal is patient- and resident-oriented first – that's our primary concern and if there's a program that we know has been proven to be effective in improving the quality of life for our residents, we will do whatever we need to do to enhance that,” she said.

Long-term care facilities often are stark and barren places, but ERCC truly has gone the extra mile in making their facility feel just like home.

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