



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Margarita Leahy

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
Catherine Arulmohan

Join the Mercer Council Professional Team!

Mercer Council is a passionate, mission-driven organization dedicated to supporting the Mercer County community through **harm reduction, prevention, and evidence-based early intervention**. Our staff members come from diverse professional backgrounds—teachers, social workers, case managers, public health educators, certified prevention specialists, National Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialists, and licensed mental health professionals.

As a team, we uphold our core values of **integrity, teamwork, compassion, empathy, accountability, relevance, and commitment** to those we serve and to one another.

Position Title:

Substance Use Evaluator for the New Jersey Youth Justice Commission (YJC)

Position History

For more than **22 years**, Mercer Council has partnered with the **New Jersey Juvenile Justice Commission (JJC)** to provide substance use evaluations for incarcerated juveniles, adolescents, and young adults (ages 14–24).

Using the **American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)** evidence-based guidelines, we help ensure youth receive the correct level of care and appropriate treatment recommendations.

Salary Range

\$40,000 – \$52,000, commensurate with experience and credentials

Expected Hours

This is a **full-time, 40-hour position** requiring schedule flexibility. Evaluations must be completed promptly to support weekly Classification Board deadlines.

While all incarcerated youth interviews are **in-person**, some community-based interviews may be conducted in person or virtually. Report writing may be done: On-site, at the office, at home (with strict confidentiality protocols)

Position Perks

- Access to **free or reduced-cost trainings**, CEUs, and scholarship-eligible learning opportunities through YJC and Mercer Council's nonprofit status
 - Flexible work options during report writing
 - Opportunities for professional growth in a specialized, in-demand clinical field
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Core Responsibilities

- Conduct comprehensive **biopsychosocial substance use assessments** with committed juveniles ages 14–24 in person
 - Review collateral documentation from the YJC intranet to support assessment accuracy
 - Apply **ASAM Criteria** to determine appropriate level of care and advise the YJC Classification Board
 - Utilize the **Transtheoretical Model (Stages of Change)** to assess readiness for change
 - Apply **DSM-5** diagnostic standards specifically related to Substance Use Disorders
 - Administer and interpret **PADDI-5** and other standardized assessment tools
 - Prepare thorough, clinically supported reports summarizing substance use severity and recommended level of care
 - Submit evaluations promptly to ensure availability for Wednesday Classification Board review
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Essential Qualifications

- Current, valid New Jersey licensure or Certification in one of the following: **CADC or LCADC**
- Ability to pass a **criminal background check and fingerprinting**
- Trained in **Motivational Interviewing** and/or substantial graduate-level coursework in Substance Use Disorders (if not already CADC/LCADC-certified)
- Commitment to legal and ethical standards, including confidentiality, proper documentation, and mandated reporting
- Ability to maintain timely, accurate clinical records

Preferred Qualifications

- Additional licensure or credentials such as **LAC, LPC, LCSW, LISW, LCMHC, LCPC, LMHC**, or **Clinical Psychologist**
- **Bilingual** applicants strongly preferred (Spanish)
- Experience working with adolescents and young adults
- Crisis intervention experience
- Comfort working in **highly structured, controlled environments** (correctional settings)

Application Process

To apply or request more information, please submit: Resume, Mercer Council job application (on website), Short cover letter. Email all materials to: **Mercer Jobs – jobs@mercercouncil.org**
