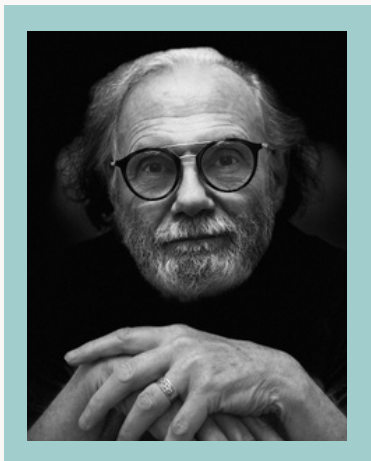


KEYNOTE HIGHLIGHT



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Stigma- Negative attitudes or beliefs about someone because of a particular trait, condition, or identity.

This sounds so sterile but for those living with FASD, this is a day to day, moment to moment reality. Society sees them through a lens of incapacity - not as valuable human beings; not as people with capacity to make a difference in our world.

Enough already! This is not a new conversation but one in need of loud advocacy. I am tired of the dialogue of the good neurodevelopmental disorders of Autism and ADHD. Sure they are valid and sure those so diagnosed as worthy - but not more worthy.

So let's have a conversation in which we collectively think about what we can do - I will come up with some ideas but I want to ask all of you to think creatively - what have we not tried so far?

Dr. Choate is a Professor of Social Work at Mount Royal University. He has over 30 years of clinical experience in the field with special emphasis on addiction, mental health, domestic violence and child protection matters. He has been qualified as an expert witness on over 150 occasions. He provides clinical consultations on PCA as well as conducting research in this area and presents at workshops and conferences to practitioners, lawyers and members of the judiciary.

His areas of scholarship focus on

- Assessment of parents within child protection systems including systemic bias issues
- Practice errors in child protection linked to serious injury and death
- Indigenous children and family intersection with child protection
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Stigma and implications for front line practice
- Implementation of Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action within the practice of social work

He is an approved clinical supervisor through the Alberta College of Social Workers.

Areas of Instruction

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health
- Child Intervention
- Assessment in Social Work
- Interpersonal Violence
- Mental Health and Addictions