

## THERAPIST/CLIENT

A behavioral health organization's intake form asks demographic questions regarding race, ethnicity, language, and gender identity. A potential client is a Latina (a fluent Spanish speaking female). She fills out the form and specifically asks for a therapist of color, preferably someone bi-lingual. The intake coordinator knows that there is no one on staff who can fulfill this request, and therefore does not pass the request on to the assigned therapist. During the first meeting, the therapist (a White female) asks no questions or makes no mention of the client's ethnicity. The client seems reticent to engage and doesn't really seem to open up about some of the challenges she is facing and why.

### **Questions to consider while discussing the scenario**

1. What are the assumptions underlying this thinking procedure/practice?
2. How could this practice/procedure burden communities of color?
3. How do you involve the most impacted in the decision-making process?
4. What are some strategies for reducing or eliminating negative impacts?