**Module 4: “Isms” Activity**

**Purpose of the Activity:**

The purpose of the “Isms” activity is to identify forms of oppression that have an impact on families served by the child welfare system.

**Supplies Needed:**

- View “Racism in Retail” video prior to activity.
- Flip chart and markers to record responses.

**Instructions for the Activity:**

1) **State:** It is true that racism is not the only form of bias and oppression in the micro system.

2) **Ask:** What are some other forms of oppression or “isms”?

3) **Record the responses on the flip-chart;** try to include all the following:

   - Sexism
   - Weight-ism
   - Heterosexism
   - Classism
   - Ageism
   - Able-ism

4) **State:** Think about the case you brought; try to identify two isms from the list that you think might have an impact on that case. Think of how isms might relate to that family’s story.

5) **Ask for a volunteer to share their case; process using the following questions:**

   - How has this ism become part of the family’s story?
   - How does the family manage this ism?
   - What strengths do you see in how they manage the ism?
   - What role might an ally such as yourself play in the lessening of the negative impact on the family?