

**Biography: Dr. Maria Cantu Hines**

Dr. Cantu Hines is a foreign clinician with a strong public health background and an emphasis on prevention and health promotion. She has practiced prevention and clinical medicine in Mexico since 1996 and public health in the United States since 2006. Her experience with the Nebraska State Department's Office of Health Disparities and Health Equity allowed her to integrate her clinical training by envisioning measures of outcome in prevention via public health interventions. Maria has worked and taught medical interpretation at the Central Community College and Saint Francis Medical Center in Grand Island, Nebraska. She is an experienced trainer in Cultural Intelligence, Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Healthcare, health disparities, and social determinants of health. Additionally, she created a curriculum for Community Health Workers (CHWs) and had over 130 CHWs trained and provided educational sessions in a peer-to-peer fashion to their communities, congregations, and neighborhoods.

Being a first-generation Hispanic has helped her to connect with other first-generation immigrants and facilitated several community meetings and focus groups to understand the needs of their communities across Nebraska. Dr Cantu Hines has Program Management experience for the Office of Health Disparities for Nebraska's 3rd congressional district, which is mostly rural. Her experience extends to the implementation of evidence-based practices in public health, grant management, grant oversight, and grant proposal review (State and Federal) for more than 13 years.

Dr Cantu Hines has worked most of her professional career within the realm of health disparities and health equity keeping good standing partnerships with most local district health departments community organizations, and the State Health Department, and worked and collaborated in Community Health Needs Assessments, State Health needs, and Improvement Plan and have a good network of stakeholders across the State.