Marci Nielsen, PhD, MPH is a seasoned health policy executive with broad experience in federal, state, association, and academic leadership. She was appointed as Chief Advisor for Covid-19 coordination for Kansas Governor Laura Kelly on Jan. 20th, 2021.

She recently directed GEHA's policy and strategy efforts and previously served as CEO of a DC-based national primary care association; served as Vice Chancellor of public affairs and in faculty positions at the University of Kansas Medical Center; directed the State of Kansas' health care agency (Medicaid, CHIP, State Employee Health Plan); lobbied health issues for the AFL-CIO in Washington DC; served as staff for US Senator Bob Kerrey (NE); participated in numerous medical and public health grant funded research projects; served in the US Army Reserves, and volunteered in the US Peace Corps (Thailand).

Her current volunteer work includes co-founding and serving as the Chief Health Officer for the CVKey Project, and serving on the Boards of the National Academy for State Health Policy (Center for Health Policy Development), the Collaborative Family Healthcare Association, and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Foundation. She is also a member of the Stakeholder Council for the American Board of Medical Specialties. She previously served on the Board of Directors for the American Board of Family Medicine Board, the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, and TransforMED. She has also served in advisory roles for multiple national and state health care and public health organizations, and co-edited the policy section of the peer-reviewed multidisciplinary journal Family, Systems, and Health.