

## TCOG Public Safety Staff and Fannin County School Administrators Tour Oklahoma School Safe Rooms

SHERMAN, September 26, 2014 – Dr. Susan Thomas, Executive Director of Texoma Council of Governments (TCOG) announced today that TCOG Public Safety Staff, Fannin County Emergency Management Coordinator and Fannin County School Administrators travelled last week to Oklahoma to tour school safe rooms at several Oklahoma Schools.

TCOG is currently working with Fannin County to update their Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan must be updated every five years per FEMA regulations. "The update will include Fannin County school districts," said Dr. Thomas. "Bringing the school districts into the process is important for the safety of their students. Participation in the mitigation planning process will allow the districts to apply to FEMA for Safe Room Projects."

Fannin County Administrators toured five school safe rooms in Bryan County Oklahoma to gain a better understanding of the process and requirements for these FEMA assisted projects.

The Texoma Council of Governments is a voluntary association of the local governments in Cooke, Fannin, and Grayson Counties. Established in 1968, the Texoma Council of Governments promotes economy and efficiency in the coordinated planning and development of the tri-county region through its community and economic development activities. Either directly, or through contractors, the Council provides housing, utility assistance, and weatherization services for low-income citizens in the region and assists the elderly through a variety of Area Agency on Aging programs. The Council also facilitates the delivery of grant funding for homeland security and criminal justice.

###

**For Additional Information Contact:**

CJ Durbin-Higgins  
(903) 813-3552  
chiggins@texoma.cog.tx.us

**For Statements or Interviews Contact:**

Susan B. Thomas, PhD  
(903) 813-3514  
stthomas@texoma.cog.tx.us

